WOLF TRAP FARM PARK AND MARY McLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 1999

A BILL To amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Wolf Trap Farm Park in Fairfax County, Virginia, and for other purposes

S. 2436

A BILL To designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes

JULY 2, 1982

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WOLF TRAP FARM PARK AND MARY McLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1982

U. S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:05 a.m., in room 3110, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. John W. Warner, presiding.

Present: Senators Warner and Hatfield.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN W. WARNER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Senator WARNER. This morning we have a hearing on two proposed pieces of legislation and we have present my distinguished colleague from the State of Oregon, Senator Hatfield. I will withhold my statement until after hearing from the distinguished Senator.

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came to hear your opening statement, Mr. Chairman. I would like very much to hear it.

Senator WARNER. That is very thoughtful of you. I will do whatever you wish.

Senator HATFIELD. I would like very much to hear it.

Senator WARNER. Today the subcommittee will be receiving testimony on two bills, the first of which would designate the Mary McLeod Bethune "Council House" as a national historic site. We will then turn to the issue of the reconstruction of the Filene Center at Wolf Trap Farm Park, which, as you all are aware, burned to the ground on April 4, 1982.

Council House, located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW., in Washington, D.C. was the last official residence of Mary McLeod Bethune, the renowned educator and national political leader. Mrs. Bethune was the founder and president of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida and the National Council of Negro Women. She was appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt as director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration.

Council House was Mrs. Bethune's home between 1943 and 1949 and served as the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women.

Mrs. Bethune worked endlessly to achieve goals which many thought impossible at the time. She had the fortitude, persistence, and confidence to believe that if one was willing to work hard, even the greatest barriers could be overcome. She was an example of the spirit and hope upon which America was founded.

Council House remains in the ownership of the National Council of Negro Women and today houses the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History. Materials which document the history of black women and the black community are actively collected by the museum and archives.

Although the National Council of Negro Women has accomplished extensive restoration and interpretation of the site, legislation, in the judgment of myself and others, is needed to assure its continued preservation and use and to provide national recognition for the outstanding work of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Just to interject, I have been interested in this project for 7 years. It came to my attention during the Nation's Bicentennial when I was privileged to serve in a capacity with the Federal Government and I worked with many at that time to incorporate the heritage of this distinguished American body during the Bicentennial. We think we made some enormous progress.

I see many in the audience today that worked on that project.

I understand the Department of Interior has questions about it, legitimate questions, and based on my study last night of the proposed testimony today, but I am hopeful that together we can work out a solution to those problems.

Turning now to the Wolf Trap Farm Park, it was established on approximately 100 acres of land in Fairfax County, Va., directly donated by Mrs. Jouet Shouse, together with five usable buildings and funds for the construction of the Filene Center. The initial cost of construction for the center was $3.5 million.

The park has been established, developed, operated, and maintained as a park for the performing arts and related educational programs and for recreational use by the general public.

The Secretary of the Interior determined that it would be in the public interest for a private foundation with expertise in the performing arts to present the performing arts program and certain related educational activities in the park and to provide services under the supervision and regulation of the Secretary.

The Wolf Trap Foundation for the performing arts was created in November of 1968 for that purpose. It has operated since that time under a written agreement with the Secretary. An agreement between the National Park Service and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the arts was executed on September 16, 1980, and valid until 1983. It outlines the Foundation's duties and obligations in the park.

The Filene Center, which was destroyed by fire last April, was a Government-owned building and therefore was not insured. The Government does not carry insurance on its buildings, but acts as self-insurer. So in fact this hearing today is the Government acting as an insurance company, I suppose, in paying its own policy.

The Wolf Trap Foundation for the performing arts and others have launched an extensive fund raising drive to rebuild the Filene Center.

The administration has been asked to set a policy for the reconstruction of the Filene Center. We will receive testimony on this subject this morning.

First, we will proceed, however, to S. 2436, to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, D.C., as a national historic site. Without objection, we will place copies of bills S. 1999 and S. 2436 into the hearing record, along with the draft legislation proposed by the administration for the reconstruction of the center.

The hearing record will remain open for 2 weeks to accommodate the testimony of those who could not be present today.

We will hear now from Senator Hatfield.

[The texts of S. 1999 and S. 2436 follow:]

II

97TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1999

To amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Wolf Trap Farm Park in Fairfax County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 30), 1981

Mr. WARNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

To amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Wolf Trap Farm Park in Fairfax County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the third section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Wolf Trap Farm Park in Fairfax County, Virginia and for other purposes" (80 Stat 950), as amended, is deleted and a new section 3 is inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

"SEC. 3. The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, as organized within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954, and as incorporated pursuant to the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, is responsible for creative activities at Wolf Trap Farm Park including, but not limited to, programing both of an entertainment and educational nature and all ancillary activities pertinent to these programs. Such activities shall be carried out in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, but not in excess of $5,473,000, for the purposes of acquisition and development.".

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II

97TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2436

To designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27 (legislative day, APRIL 13), 1982

Mr. WARNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

To designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the residence in Washington, District of Columbia, of Mary McLeod Bethune, renowned educator, national

political leader, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women;

(2) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune directed activities that brought her national and international recognition;

(3) this site was significant as a center for the development of strategies and programs which advanced the interests of black women and the black community;

(4) it was at this location that Mary McLeod Bethune as the president of the National Council of Negro Women received heads of state, government officials, and leaders from across the world;

(5) the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House was the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, and is the site of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History;

(6) the archives, which houses the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, contains extensive correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to Mary McLeod Bethune; and

(7) the museum and archives actively collect artifacts, clothing, artwork, and other materials which doc-

ument the history of black women and the black community.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to assure the preservation, maintenance, and interpretation of this house and site because of the historic meaning and prominence of the life and achievements of Mary McLeod Bethune, an outstanding leader in the areas of housing, employment, civil rights, and women's rights; and

(2) to assure the continuation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History at this site, the preservation of which is necessary for the continued interpretation of the history of black women in America.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 2. In order to further the purpose of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–7), the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House at 1318 Vermont Avenue Northwest, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, is hereby designated as a national historic site (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "historic site").

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

SEC. 3. In furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–7), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to enter into

cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women. Such agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary will provide assistance to mark, interpret, restore, and maintain the historic site and provide technical and financial assistance to the National Council of Negro Women for the preservation and interpretation of any properties referred to in section 1(a). Such agreement may also contain provisions that—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property covered by such agreement for the purpose of conducting visitors through such properties and interpreting them to the public; and

(2) no changes or alterations shall be made in such properties except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and the other parties to such agreements.

No limitation or control of any kind over the use of such properties customarily used for the purposes of the National Council of Negro Women shall be imposed by any such agreement.

ANNUAL REPORT

SEC. 4. The National Council of Negro Women shall, as a condition of the receipt of any assistance under this Act,

provide to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Congress of the United States an annual report documenting the activities and expenditures for which any such assistance was used during the preceding fiscal year.

STATEMENT OF HON. MARK O. HATFIELD, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the fact that you have put such importance on both of these matters, especially the Mary McLeod home that I have cosponsored to hold a hearing on the first day of recess.

I think it indicates the priority that you have given to these matters and I want to commend you for it. Mary McLeod Bethune is remembered as a national political leader, educator, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women. And this bill would designate her council house here in Washington, D.C. as a national historic site, giving authorization to the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Council of Negro Women, who will continue to operate the facility. And I think this is an excellent example of what can be done in a cooperative way so that the total responsibility is not upon the Federal Government, but rather that it is a joint enterprise, which gives the backing and support of the Federal Government to a private activity and one that has demonstrated already its great capacity to function in relation to this particular house, this historic house.

Mr. Chairman, Ms. Bethune was considered the most influential black woman of her generation. She served as an advisor on black issues to four different Presidents of the United States and was an international consultant on human rights from 1943 to 1955, the time of her death.

She lived and worked and entertained in her Vermont Avenue home. She was the founder of Bethume-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. and served in President Franklin Roosevelt's black Cabinet as director of the National Youth Administration Division of Negro Affairs.

We know by the record that this Vermont Avenue home was indeed a place for legendary figures in black history, including Dr. Charles Drew and Mary Church Tarrell. National and international notables appeared in her home, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and William S. Tubman. So it is a historic place, not in terms necessarily of the age of the house only, but the important activities and the causes that were dreamed and envisioned and worked toward from this base.

Ms. Bethune's home is now the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum, which opened in November of 1979. The museum houses an impressive collection of works and papers from renowned members of the black community. These works include papers from the National Archives, from the Black Women's History, the Mabel Stoffard collection, among others.

The Archives also include over 2,000 photographs depicting events and individuals involved some place along the line in the history of black women.

Council House, I think, is not only a very important segment of black history, but as it relates to the total history of this Nation, which is such a fundamental composite of many ethic groups and I think over the years we have tended to neglect the vital part played by every facet of our history by the blacks.

In fact, I am pleased to say the recent scholarship has developed a vital role in my part of the country of work that has developed called the History of Black Cowboys. People have never assumed after watching the western movies and other ways which have depicted the development of the West that there was an important role played by black cowboys out west in Oregon country.

So I feel this is a step forward into the enrichment of our understanding of our heritage to identify these important places and people associated with them, where visitors can come and be educated and have a greater appreciation for the role of black women, that they have played in the development of our Nation.

I think the Department of the Interior's national historic preservation program deserves great commendation and I think this will enrich that fine record made by the Department of the Interior.

It will also insure the continuation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum, the National Archives for Black Women's History.

I think sometimes we forget that these private endeavors come in cycles as far as interest or resources necessary to maintain them and what the Government can do in this kind of joint enterprise is to give that continuity and stability to guarantee the continuation of a high level of care and maintenance and utilization of this important historic house.

And for this reason I urge expeditious action on this very important legislation. I want to thank the chairman for his courtesy that he has extended me and thank the other witnesses who permitted me to lead off here on this particular bill that I might return to other important business.

Senator WARNER. Thank you to my distinguished colleague and I appreciate you becoming a cosponsor of this bill.

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator WARNER. We will have to work together with the Department of the Interior to see what we can do to reconcile the bill.

I will now proceed with the panel on S. 2436 and then we will complete the hearing on this proposal and then proceed to Wolf Trap.

At this time, I would like to have the panel of Dr. Dorothy Height, president, National Council of Negro Women; Dovey Roundtree, attorney representing the Council; Timothy Jenkins, chairman of MATCH Institution; Arthur Fletcher, president of Arthur Fletcher & Associates.

STATEMENT OF DR. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

Dr. HEIGHT. Mr. Chairman, is it possible for Dr. Thomas to read the testimony that was given to us by our former historian?

Senator WARNER. At your pleasure. Forgive me, when I came down the lights were so bright, I failed to see you. I remember well when you visited in my office. It is nice to see you again. Please proceed.

Dr. HEIGHT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I am very pleased and proud to have this opportunity to have with you and your dinstin-

guished colleagues to give us an opportunity to express the interest, the concern and really the years of dedication that have led us to this point of wanting to see the thing happen that S. 2436 would achieve in designating the Bethune Council House at 1318 Vermont Avenue, Washington, D. C., as a historical site.

I am president of the National Council of Negro Women and have served since 1957 in that capacity, but I have been a part of the National Council of Negro Women most of my life, since 1937. The National Council of Negro Women is a coalition of 28 national women's organizations, representing women in every economic and social grouping within our society.

We have an outreach to 4 million women. During the years of service and participation in the National Council of Negro Women, I have come to understand, as I think many of our people have, that black women are often depicted in daily life and in history in terms of problems. But we have been searching for years to bring forward what has been our positive contribution and the role that we carry, not only in family and community life, but in the national life.

Some years ago we sensed that in Lincoln Park, in our Nation's Capitol, there was a monument that had Abraham with a slave at his knee and that monument had been put there by our ancestors, the newly emancipated citizens in 1874, because they wanted to express their sense at the loss of Abraham Lincoln. It did come and was led by Charlotte Scott who gave the first 5 dollars earned in her freedom to initiate this when she learned that Lincoln had been assassinated.

We felt that we could never erase what is the reality of our history in slavery, but there needed to be placed at the other end of that park a symbol of that contribution to American life. And so it was with the work that took place through some 14 years through 5 sessions of the Congress of the United States, through four presidents of the United States and all through those years in collaboration and cooperation with the Department of Interior, we worked so that on July 10, 1974 there was placed in Lincoln Park the Bethune Memorial.

Mary McLeod Bethune was chosen as the symbol because she was the undisputed person of this century who represented what all could agree upon was our contribution and we wanted that to be there, not only for the present but for future generations.

In that whole process there was a lot that was learned about Mrs. Bethune, but I think most of all we found that there was a coming together of people of every race, of every class, of every nationality with some from other parts of the world joining hands so that the Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park became something which we were proud of.

Next Saturday, July 10, marks her 107th birthday. We will again be in that park, celebrating her 107th birthday, but this year it is expanded across the country in what we are calling a celebration of black women. And wherever our women are, they have been called to celebrate in that same spirit.

Mary McLeod Bethune's contributions to the society have been something that is documented every time you gather a few people.

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One of our witnesses who was unable to be with us this morning, Arthur Fletcher, tells very vividly the story of the impact that she made, not only in his life, but in the lives of so many and that wherever you go, there are those who will testify to what her contribution was.

Senator WARNER. I hope Mr. Fletcher, whom I know very well, will make available to the record his testimony.

Dr. HEIGHT. Yes, I am sure he will. He just happens to be out of the city at this particular time.

In the testimony that we are submitting, you will find that we have put together some of the evidence of the way in which the house that Mrs. Bethune felt needed to be a center for black women and black women's history has been used, what it has accomplished. Many of us have spent years in that house in seminars, greeting people from many parts of the world.

It is also a base for a repository on black women's history and that work has already been begun. As you have already indicated, Mr. Chairman, in 1976 as the country celebrated its bicentennial, we sought to have an opportunity to make this our project for 1976, a study and a way to discover how we could interpret that house and what it meant to black women and to this Nation. And that is how we began the intensive work that we have in part seen culminated now.

We have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in that building to bring it up to its true Victorian era. We have made every sacrifice to assure that it was representative. We are pleased that it is in the Logan Circle historic unit as a landmark. We want to see it brought forward as a historic site.

This 1318 Vermont Avenue would be for us a place that would provide continuous interpretation, not only of Mrs. Bethune, but of the contribution of black women. We see it as a source for technical assistance to help us discover our roots and our understandings, that we could provide to young people, to the community, to people across this country the kinds of information that are constantly sought. The National Council of Negro Women in itself is constantly called upon for information, not only for schools, but for a wide range of services. This could be the center. This is what we wish.

We are here today really wanting to urge and to appreciate the support you and your distinguished colleagues are giving so that there may be this provision within our community here in this Nation's Capitol of the historic site as the Mary McLeod Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women's History.

We have never asked and did not do so when we were working on the memorial, it was placed without cost to the Federal Government. We are not asking for it to be done, we are asking for a chance to continue the marvelous cooperative experience we have had through these years to assure this for the use of the American people.

With me today are other colleagues who will speak.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Height follows:]

TESTIMONY OF
DR. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

I, Dorothy I. Height, National President of the National Council of Negro Women, come before this Committee today to request the support of the United States Senate for S. 2436 to designate the "Mary McLeod Bethune Council House," located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., a national historic site.

Having had a long relationship with the National Council of Negro Women and having worked with Mary McLeod Bethune and the succeeding NCNW Presidents, and since 1957, having served as the National President of the NCNW, I am honored to speak to you this morning concerning the historic significance of Mary McLeod Bethune, during the period of her greatest national and international recognition, 1936-1955; and to demonstrate how important the "Mary McLeod Bethune Council House" is to the interpretation of Mrs. Bethune's life and the implementation of her dream of a national center for black women's history.

Mary McLeod Bethune was a woman of many achievements. Born in Mayesville, South Carolina in 1875, by 1930 she was the most celebrated black woman of her generation. It was in 1930 that Mrs. Bethune's name appeared on historian Ida Tarbell's highly publicized list of 50 notable women. Mrs. Bethune, the only black woman to be cited, was described as the 12th foremost woman in the United States. In 1935, Mrs. Bethune was awarded the Spingarn Medal, the second woman to be accorded this honor. Destined to be one of the major black leaders of this century, by 1935 Mrs. Bethune was the major black female educator and organizer of black women. Prior to that date, from 1904 to 1932 she worked diligently to convert "the school built on a garbage dump" into a college. As a virtually unknown educator

with energy, enthusiasm, spunk and charisma, she devised strategies to fund the work of the infant institution. As meritorious as this work was, full national recognition was not forthcoming until her election in 1924 as President of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, which was based in Washington, D.C. Full recognition of Mrs. Bethune as an outstanding national leader and international figure came after 1935 as a result of the unification of the major national organizations of black women under the umbrella of the National Council of Negro Women. This organization of organizations represented over one million black women and gave black women a powerful voice for social change. Four months prior to the founding of the NCNW, Mrs. Bethune was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration in Washington, D.C.

During the years 1935 to 1950 Mrs. Bethune became one of the most prominent and influential black leaders in America, serving simultaneously as the Director of the Negro Division of the National Youth Administration (1936-1944), the President of the National Council of Negro Women (1935-1949), the President of Bethune-Cookman College (1904-1942)[1] and President of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (1936-1951). Mrs. Bethune chose Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, as her major base of operation from January, 1936 to December, 1949. From 1936 to 1943, Mrs. Bethune maintained several residences in the northwest area of Washington, D.C.

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[1]Mrs. Bethune was Founder and President of the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro Girls from 1904-1931; in 1932 the institution became the Bethune Cookman-College. She served as President of the College until 1942 and from 1946-1947. From 1947 until her death in 1955 she was President-Emeritus, Trustee and Chairman of the Advisory Board.

From 1936 to 1943, prior to the NCNW purchase of the property at 1318 Vermont Avenue, Mrs. Bethune occupied rented residences in the northwest section of Washington, D.C. From 1936 to 1938 she resided at 1316 T Street, N.W.; from 1939 to 1943 she resided at 1812 9th Street, N.W. in apartments 1 and 3 respectively. From 1943 to 1950 she resided at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W.[2]

In 1943, after a search which covered almost two years, Mrs. Bethune, as the President of the NCNW, initiated the purchase of the property at 1318 Vermont Avenue. On December 18, 1943 Mrs. Bethune introduced the fact of purchase and sought the sanction of the NCNW Executive Board, a distinguished gathering of twenty-six (26) women representing national organizations and noted women of achievement. This gathering overwhelmingly supported Mrs. Bethune, agreeing to raise funds to pay the purchase price of $15,000. Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman expressed the feelings of the gathering that this building, designated as the NCNW national headquarters would be a symbol of the work of black women. Stating that "this building should become known in all parts of the world," Mrs. Thurman, suggested that "provision be made for a museum (a National Museum of Negro Women)."

From 1943 to 1950 Mrs. Bethune with the sanction of the NCNW Executive Council maintained "permanent residence at the home of the National Council of Negro Women." Mrs. Bethune chose a suite of rooms situated on the second floor of the building for herself and a small room on the third floor for her attendant. Mrs. Bethune expressed her gratitude to the Board for supporting her endeavors and stated that "I want this building to be a blessing to you." She envisioned

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[2]This data was culled from the District of Columbia City Directories for the period 1936-1950.

1318 Vermont Avenue as a base from which black women would "Promote [a] program of action to meet the needs of the world."[3]

At 1318 Vermont Avenue, "Council House," Mrs. Bethune received and entertained the most prominent national and international figures of the 1940s and 1950s. National conferences, planning sessions, receptions and meetings of local and national special interest groups were held at this site. The location of "Council House" in Logan Circle near the White House and the major governmental agencies made it easily accessible to political figures and visitors. Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, Charles Drew, Madame Pandit of India, President Tubman of Liberia, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Mary Church Terrell, Helen Gahagan Douglass, Alice Roosevelt Longworth and many others were received by Mrs. Bethune at "Council House."

It was during Mrs. Bethune's tenure that the NCNW developed a national program which included affiliation and collaboration with organizations and associations in every area of American life. In addition to national women's organizations, the NCNW extended its contacts to every major social, educational, governmental, and community organization. Focusing upon public affairs, employment, citizenship, family life, religion, post-war planning, consumer education, rural life, membership, personnel, and the publication of the Aframerican Woman's Journal, the NCNW committees successfully utilized the media and collaborated with key national organizations, governmental agencies, educational institutions and individuals to educate and to effect change.

Working with the Y.W.C.A., labor unions, and other organizations, the NCNW collected, analyzed, and disseminated data regarding the employment of blacks on federal jobs, particularly in the Civilian Conservation Corp. and the National Youth Administration. The NCNW

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[3]National Council of Negro Women, Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors, Meeting of December 18, 1943, (typescript).

exposed the discriminatory practices of local communities which excluded blacks from government training programs. During World War II, the Council systematically documented black employment in plants engaged in war work and, as a result of pressures brought to bear from many sources, the Fair Employment Practice Committee was established.

While the NCNW exposed discriminatory practices, it also impressed upon black workers their responsibility to maintain a professional attitude and appearance and to develop job-related skills. Utilizing country-wide public meetings, contacts with employees and employers, newspaper articles, and the dissemination of materials, the NCNW conducted a "Hold Your Job" campaign.

The NCNW campaigned for integration of blacks in the military and fought for the admission of women into the WACS, the WAVES, and the WANDS. As a result of a series of conferences between Mrs. Bethune and army leaders, black women were accepted into the WACS. Mrs. Bethune personally recruited many of the first 39 WACS.[5] She inspected training camps and, when necessary, lodged complaints against discriminatory practices. The Metropolitan NCNW Councils sponsored special programs for the WACS and took a special interest in their activities.

While the NCNW closely monitored the government, it also gave strong support to government programs. By sponsoring "We Serve America" programs, encouraging Local Councils to "Buy Bonds and Be Free," and launching the Harriet Tubman Liberty Ship, the NCNW membership stressed its patriotism.

The Council did not limit its associations to black women's organizations. It actively worked with the National Board of the Y.W.C.A., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Council of Women, the National Urban League, the League of

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[5]The first recruitment meeting for black WACS was held at 1318 Vermont Avenue, "Council House."

Women Voters, the National Council of Church Women, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the National Council of Catholic Women to educate and to effect programs targeted to the elimination of racism and sexism. In 1944 the Council sponsored a conference to address the question of the "Position of Minorities in the United States." The Council was an active participant and planner in numerous conferences called by the President of the United States and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Conferences on Employment, on Child Care, and on women's participation in the war were attended by black women representing diverse organizations. Black women were appointed to serve on boards and conference committees for the War Manpower Commission, the Women's and Children's Bureau, the Department of Labor, and government bureaus.

Mrs. Bethune possessed a world view. She felt that black people must be aware of and become actively involved in the struggles for peace throughout the world. Her concern led her to join the Moral Rearmament Movement and to support the idea of a united nations. Accompanied by Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee and Mrs. Edith Sampson, Mary McLeod Bethune travelled to San Francisco to witness the founding of the United Nations. The Council was the only national black woman's organization represented at that meeting. The NCNW sent representatives and observers to meetings throughout the world and for some time has maintained an official observer at the United Nations.

At the end of Mrs. Bethune's tenure, the National Council of Negro Women was recognized as the major advocate for black women. Its advocacy was well articulated on the pages of the Aframerican Woman's Journal. This quarterly publication was not the first journal published by a black woman's organization, but in terms of quality it would be one

of the best. Beginning publication in 1940 under the direction of Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman, the Journal was hailed as "the first full-fledged periodical publication by Negro women." Its excellent journalism informed black women of the major issues concerning women, targeted legislation which affected women and blacks, spotlighted the accomplishments of individual women, and projected the work of the NCNW. In 1949 the name of the Journal was changed to Women United. The Council also published Telefact, a newsletter which informed members of the Council and its affiliates of news and important issues and events relevant to legislation, international affairs, and economic developments.

After 14 years of unceasing toil and dedication, at the age of 74 Mary McLeod Bethune made the decision to relinquish the office of President of the National Council of Negro Women. "Stepping Aside at Seventy-Four" was not a difficult task for Mrs. Bethune. She had a special talent for identifying bright, young, gifted women who were articulate, attractive, and willing to work hard under the direction of "Ma." She had successfully created a cadre of potential leaders, women who would distinguished themselves in a number of fields. Some of the women who worked with Mrs. Bethune during the formative years came to the NCNW with an impressive array of credentials, and their involvement with the Council helped to enhance their careers and project them into a larger arena.

In addition to being Mrs. Bethune's official Washington, D.C. residence, 1318 Vermont Avenue, served as the NCNW National Headquarters from 1943 to 1966. By the end of Mrs. Bethune's tenure, it was widely known in America and abroad as a major center for the activities of

black women.

It is difficult to capture in this brief testimony all the facets of Mrs. Bethune's work. While Mrs. Bethune actively engaged in the development of programs and strategies to address the needs of black women and their families, she was also concerned about the neglect of black history and in particular black women's history. It is no accident that Mrs. Bethune was elected and served as President of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History for a period of fifteen (15) years. As early as 1920, Mrs. Bethune became a major advocate of black history. She understood the functions of history and was determined to see that black women received recognition for their contributions to American life and history.

The National Council of Negro Women has been the major advocate for black women and black women's history for over 40 years. In 1938 Mrs. Bethune worked with historian Mary Beard, Eleanor Roosevelt, and other distinguished women on the World Center for Women's Archives Committee. It was anticipated that materials documenting the history of women would be collected and placed in an archives. When that project ended, Mrs. Bethune and the NCNW continued to emphasize the need to identify, collect, and preserve the records of black women. In 1939 the NCNW established a "National Archives for Negro Women's History." Through the pioneering efforts of people like Sue Bailey Thurman, the original concept remained a vital part of the NCNW's goals. In 1977 under the administration of Dr. Dorothy I. Height, the Bethune Historical Development Project was created to develop and initiate plans for the National Archives for Black Women's History and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum.

Through the establishment of the National Archives for Black Women's History and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum, the NCNW has fully implemented Mrs. Bethune's plans. We now seek to honor one of America's greatest leaders who has contributed so much to our understanding of the problems of race and sex and who was active in the major movements of her time. The NCNW in 1974, with the sanction of the United States Congress, placed in the nation's capital, a monument in honor of Mrs. Bethune. The Bethune Memorial, located in Lincoln Park, became the first memorial to a black American to be erected on public land in the nation's capital. This memorial has made Americans aware of Mrs. Bethune's contributions.

1318 Vermont Avenue is a part of the Logan Circle Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While this brings a certain amount of recognition, landmark status generally gives recognition to properties of more local significance. Historic site status is the highest recognition a property can receive. 1318 Vermont Avenue, "Council House," has been and is of national significance. The choice of this property by Mary McLeod Bethune; the evolving role of Mrs. Bethune and black women leaders in shaping the history of America during this period and the institutionalization of this property, in 1977, as the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History, all attest to the vision and the success of Mary McLeod Bethune.

To designate this property a national historic site would celebrate the importance of Mary McLeod Bethune's life, while helping to provide a continuing basis for the interpretation of the organizational work of black women as well as the contributions of individual black women.

CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MARY McLEOD BETHUNE

AND

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

1912

Mary McLeod Bethune speaks to New York Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

1924

Bethune becomes President of National Association of Colored Women.

1927

Bethune is Delegate to meeting of the National Council of Negro Women.

1935

Bethune is appointed to the National Youth Administration as Special Advisor on Minority Affairs by President Roosevelt.

Bethune receives Spingarn Medal from NAACP.

On December 5, twenty-nine (29) Black women's organizations called to meeting in New York, by Bethune to form the National Council of Negro Women. Bethune becomes President.

1936

Bethune becomes Director of the Division of Negro Affairs, National Youth Administration.

Bethune becomes President of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the oldest Black historical association.

1937

Eleanor Roosevelt attends National Council of Negro Woman's dinner.

1938

Bethune calls for White House Conference on Black Women.

Bethune works with historian Mary Beard and Eleanor Roosevelt to establish World Center for Women's Archives.

1938 (continued)

NCNW investigates Civil Service bias.

1939

Bethune convenes Second National Conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth, January 12-14.

Bethune appoints committee to develop National Archives for Negro Women's History.

1940

NCNW initiates program of Voter Registration.

NCNW supports government effort to conserve natural resources.

Bethune helps sponsor Southern Conference on Human Welfare.

1941

Congresswoman Frances Bolton is guest of honor at NCNW banquet.

Aframerican Woman's Journal sponsors annual seminar in Haiti.

Eleanor Roosevelt delivers major speech to NCNW, "Prejudice Will Vanish."

Bethune addresses D.A.R. regents at meeting in Waldorf Astoria.

NCNW represented at Vassar Conference on National Defense.

Mrs. Roosevelt speaks at NCNW annual conference.

NCNW participates in Women's Centennial Conference.

NCNW participates in Conference, "The Negro Woman in National Defense."

NCNW represented at Defense Cooperation Conference called by Nelson Rockefeller.

1943

NCNW purchases Headquarters at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

NCNW supports the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

1943 (continued)

NCNW participates in Conference Against Race Discrimination in the War Effort.

NCNW sponsors War-Time Employment Clinics.

NCNW cooperates in continuation of "Hold Your Job" campaign.

NCNW plans nationwide observance of "We Serve America Week."

1944

Bethune, Walter White, and Channing Tobias visit President Roosevelt to express concerns of Black Americans.

NCNW launches World Security Month observance.

NCNW backs federal ballot for soldiers.

NCNW initiates Woman Power committees.

NCNW dedicates National Headquarters. Eleanor Roosevelt, Mrs. Agnes Meyer and others attend.

1945

NCNW honors Mrs. Roosevelt as "Woman of the Year."

NCNW honors sixteen (16) women. Representative Helen Gahagan Douglass, Eleanor Roosevelt, Lillian Smith, and Mabel K. Staupers are among honorees.

NCNW entertains British war workers.

Bethune appeals to Department of War for justice for assaulted WACS.

Representative Helen Gahagan Douglass speaks at NCNW program.

Bethune recommends Black women for Civilian Advisory Board.

Bethune, Walter White, and W.E.B. DuBois delegates to International Security Conference.

NCNW sponsors Physical Fitness Conference at Headquarters.

Representatives Helen Gahagan Douglass, Eleanor Roosevelt, Congresswoman Emily Taft Douglass and Mrs. Frances Biddle meet to discuss expansion of NCNW programs.

NCNW directs victory clothing collection for overseas relief.

1945 (continued)

NCNW supports Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill.

NCNW endorses Fair Employment Practice Commission.

NCNW represented at International Congress of Women in Paris.

NCNW honors Lois Jones, Agnes Meyer, Pauli Murray, and Helen G. Douglass.

NCNW promotes USDA program through food workshop.

Mrs. S.E. Bailey, mother of Sue B. Thurman, donates $1,000 for establishment of Women's Museum.

1946

NCNW supports Voter Registration.

NCNW among sponsors of International Assembly of Women.

Bethune Speaks at Madison Square Garden.

NCNW delegates visit United Nations meeting.

NCNW supports Bill to abolish Poll Tax.

Bethune speaks on role of President's Committee on Farm Tenancy and the problems related to tenant farm system.

NCNW-President and members received at the White House.

1947

NCNW holds annual workshop on economic security for Black women.

NCNW presents four-point program of notice to Joseph Martin, Majority Leader in Congress.
Theologian Howard Thurman speaks at NCNW annual convention.

NCNW passes resolutions on discrimination, world peace, employment, and housing at annual conference.

NCNW holds Open House at 1318 Vermont, N.W. in observance of "Race Relations Week."

NCNW supports legislation for Anti-Lynching and Aid to Education.

1947 (continued)

NCNW endorses Report of President's Committee on Civil Rights.

NCNW members received by First Lady Bess Truman in the Blue Room at the White House.

Madame Henri Bonnet, wife of French Ambassador, visits "Council House." Present were Bethune, Mary Church Terrell and Mr. Albert Ely.

1948

NCNW maps plans to extend Civil Rights at annual conference.

Senator Robert Taft thanks Bethune for support of Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill.

NCNW mounts Voter's Registration Drive from Headquarters.

NCNW hosts reception honoring Ambassador Charles of Haiti and Minister King of Liberia at 1318 Vermont.

1949

NCNW begins publication of Women United at Headquarters.

President Truman addresses NCNW annual conference at Department of Labor Auditorium. Those present include Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Pandit of India, and Edith Sampson.

NCNW hosts Japanese Delegation at 1318 Vermont.

NBC scans life of Bethune on All-U.S. Show.

Bethune retires as President of NCNW, December.

1950

On January 14, NCNW Executive Committee assembled to endorse nine-point program calling for full civil rights and social welfare.

NCNW urges members to write congressmen in support of Fair Employment Practice Commission.

NCNW sponsors rally to support civil rights mobilization.

NCNW plans participation in White House Council on Youth.

Hazel Scott performs in benefit concert for NCNW's Community Service Program.

1950 (continued)

Dr. Ferebee serves as Vice-Chairperson of 1950 National Citizens Committee for United Nations Day.

Secretary of Labor, Maurice J. Tobin, opens NCNW Convention, followed by National Conference on Labor and Industry.

NCNW sends telegram to President and letters to D. C. Board of Education protesting segregation policies.

NCNW hosts Cuban-American Goodwill Association at 1318 Vermont.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson addresses NCNW 15th Annual Convention.

NCNW delegates participates in White House Conference on Youth.

President Harry S. Truman greets delegates to NCNW 15th Annual Convention.

NCNW commends Supreme Court for decisions on segregation.

NCNW members support proposal to establish a Cabinet Department of Health, Education and Security.

NCNW participates in Women's Bureau exchange program. Women from Germany visit "Council House."

1951

NCNW participates in conference on Women in the Defense Decade, sponsored by the American Council on Education, September 27-28.

Josephine Baker presents benefit performance for NCNW.

NCNW joins Federated Women's Clubs in promotion of sales of U.S. Defense Bonds.

NCNW President Dr. Ferebee attends Women's Congress in Munich, Germany.

NCNW asks Daughters of the American Revolution to end discrimination at Constitution Hall.

Haitian women acknowledge NCNW support for equal rights for Haitian women.

NCNW International Committee honors Mrs. Alben Barkley, wife of Vice-President of the United States. Participants include Mrs. Dean Acheson, Mrs. Mordecai Johnson, and Mrs. Georgia Weaver.

Bethune invited to attend inaugural of President W.V.S. Tubman of Liberia.

1952

NCNW joins national organizations to protest "reign of terror" in Florida.

Edith Sampson, NCNW observer at UN Assembly in Paris.

NCNW sections across U.S. participate in Brotherhood Week.

NCNW participates in National Conference on Equal Pay, sponsored by Women's Bureau.

NCNW speaks out on racial incident in Englewood, New Jersey, denying Mary McLeod Bethune privilege of speaking at school auditorium.

NCNW supports aims of Office of Price Stabilization.

Mr. Benjamin McLaurin of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters stays at "Council House."

Bethune receives the Ruby Cross of Malta.

National historian Dr. Nancy Woolridge presents plans for a "Gallery of Negro Women" at the National Headquarters.

NCNW supports United Nations Day and urges sections to develop activities in recognition of this observance.

NCNW promotes Civil Defense Registration Campaign.

NCNW participates in National Citizenship Conference.

Bethune urges women to vote.

NCNW supports continuation of national housing program.

NCNW participates in National Civil Liberties Clearing House.

NCNW on International Hospitality Committee of the United Nations.

NCNW meets with Leadership Conference of Civil Rights.

NCNW member of Committee for Equal Pay.

1953

NCNW urges positive ruling ending discrimination in public schools.

Bethune honored by Chicago defender receives Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award.

1953 (continued)

Bethune urges women of the world to unite for peace.

1954

NCNW participates in Emergency Conference on Housing.

Hubert Humphrey addresses NCNW convention workshop.

NCNW Supports Bill on Housing.

NCNW organizes to implement the Supreme Court Decision desegregating public schools.

NCNW honors Eartha Kitt at "Council House" reception.

1955

Bethune calls for equal voting rights for Blacks.

Bethune speaks out in favor of integration of U.S. schools.

Vivian Carter Mason tours Naval Training Center at San Diego, monitoring treatment of Black enlisted persons.

Bethune dies, May 19.

NCNW and NAACP publish It Can Be Done, pamphlet, setting forth model to integrate public schools.

NCNW publishes public housing guide.

1956

NCNW members support Bill to end Filibuster.

1957

NCNW presents Mrs. Martin Luther King in New York program.

NCNW observes Bethune Commemoration Week.

Dorothy I. Height succeeds to Presidency of NCNW.

NCNW celebrates Brotherhood Week.

1958

NCNW depicts story of Negro women at International Exposition of National Women's Institute.

Dorothy Height, NCNW National President, announces plans for erection of Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park.

1959

NCNW participates in White House Conference on Children and Youth.

NCNW urges end to bombings of Black homes and churches.

NCNW participates in Armed Forces Day Program.

NCNW plans Bethune Memorial.

NCNW supports establishment of program to aid juvenile delinquents.

NCNW participates in NAACP Leadership Conference. NCNW calls for positive Civil Rights program.

NCNW holds Brotherhood Food Festival.

1960

NCNW organizes program to aid school-less children in the South.

1962

Resolution to erect Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial submitted to Senate by Honorable Jacob Javits.

1963

NCNW members and affiliates gather at 1318 Vermont before historic March on Washington, led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

NCNW organizes conference, "After the March What?"

NCNW sponsors "Knock on Every Door" campaign to open Prince Edward County schools.

1964

NCNW initiates "Wednesdays in Mississippi" program to relieve racial tensions in South.

NCNW supports Civil Rights Bill.

NCNW investigates police brutality.

NCNW organizes Voter Registration Drive.

1965

NCNW plans White House Conference, "To Fulfill These Rights."

1966

NCNW annual convention focuses on Problems of Women and Youth in Urban Crisis.

NCNW initiates Women's Leadership Training programs.

NCNW Receives Rockefeller Grant to prepare volunteers for Program of Delinquency Prevention.

(SEE: MRS. BETHUNE'S UNDERLINED STATEMENT REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 1318 VERMONT AVENUE, "COUNCIL HOUSE")

Mary McLeod Bethune's

Report to

National Council of Negro Women

Executive Board

Since the organization of the National Council of Negro Women eight years ago, one of our primary tasks, has been that of building better interracial and international relationships among the women of the world.

This has been done in many ways, - through forums, conferences, the radio, the press, seminars and our own official organs.

However, we would like to mention a few significant and specific things, the Council has done in the field of bettering race relationships. Pursuant to the war the Council planned and carried through, a seminar to Cuba, which was a mission of good-will, contact and study, in behalf of the women of the United States. One of the main features of this seminar was the unveiling of the bust of the three blood strains in the New World, representing the basic unity of the White, Negro and Mestize Woman. This was done by Theodore Ramos Blanco, Cuba's foremost sculptor, in honor of our delegation. The report of the seminar was distributed to all national women's groups in this County so that they could have the benefit of our visit.

We now have an invitation from the President of Haiti and Mme. Lescot which we hope we can accept, as soon as it is expedient, after the war.

Two of our members, Hadeline Morgan and Bessie King, both teachers in the Chicago school system, developed courses of study on the Negro, which is now being used as a part of the regular city-wide program of social studies in Chicago. This study on the Negro is not only serving as a source of information to Negro youth, but is doing a definite job in fostering better race relations, through appreciation of the contributions a group of citizens have made to our country. This work has become so important that Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. King have been and are being invited to the large cities of the country to show "how it can be done", and, in many cases to help set up a course of study for a particular city.

Now with the world engaged in a bitter struggle to defeat racism, wherever it might exist, the National Council of Negro Women has emphasized that phase of its program, which is designed to help end injustices and inequalities.

Our recent acquisition of permanent headquarters here in Washington will help do the united and effective program, which must be done by all in race relations. This is a step forward in our program, for up to the time of the organization of the Council, Negro women's organizations had no unifying place or organization from which all action could emanate.

From our headquarters will come programs of action which will help to build goodwill and unity we need interracially and internationally, if we are to build a free world.

Senator WARNER. Thank you. That is a very helpful presentation. I thank you. Could you provide for the record and perhaps your colleagues will do so now or at a subsequent time, a complete documentation of the voluntary contributions and the amount, unless it is a private matter, but exactly the amount of money that you have courageously gathered and others over these many years to put this house in its restored condition.

It is helpful as we consider additional funding that the Federal Government is picking up and what is being funded through the private sector in 1983 and previous years. That can be made and will be made a part of the record.

Dr. HEIGHT. We would be very happy to do that and I think——

Senator WARNER. You mentioned several hundreds of thousands of dollars. Is there a more accurate figure that someone is able to provide?

Dr. HEIGHT. I know that it is several hundred thousand dollars, because I have tried to clear what it has meant to us in our generation, but we have sacrificed because we believe in this. And we would be very pleased to give you some very accurate information on it.

Senator WARNER. That message comes through clearly from you. Now, if you will direct your colleagues in the order that you think most helpful.

Dr. HEIGHT. Mrs. Roundtree, who is our general counsel, was also one of the people who worked with Mrs. Bethune in the earliest stages. She is living testimony of what women have done.

Senator WARNER. I know the counselor. We remember each other from years ago when we tried cases.

STATEMENT OF DOVEY ROUNDTREE, GENERAL COUNSEL, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

Mrs. ROUNDTREE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't need to tell you and your colleagues that this is a great privilege and an honor to me. I knew Mrs. Bethune as a very young person. She touched my life at 1318 Vermont Avenue, Northwest.

We were then in the midst of World War II and Mrs. Bethune was deeply concerned lest black women, Negro women not have the opportunity to serve in civil defense in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and any other branch of the Government, Federal, local or otherwise, in helping our Nation at a time of crisis.

It was not unusual then that Mrs. Bethune sent out a call, just a simple post card, asking women like myself, young women, to come to Washington to hear about the Women's Auxiliary Corps. I came. My grandmother, Rachael Graham, gave me a bus ticket to come, because she was a disciple of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Mrs. Bethune stood as we sat around here in her second story office there at 1318 Vermont Avenue, Northwest and when she talked and when she spoke of the crisis of the country, the challenge to all the women, and in particular to black women, it was not presence in the room or in the house, but there was a spirit. And when she had finished, she told us of the hard work, that this was something entirely new and novel, but that we would become a part of a rich and illustrous history where women of the world over

down through the centuries had stood toe-to-toe with their menfolk to save and to serve the country.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, there were some very negative things being said about women who might serve in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Director Harvey was concerned about it, and Mrs. Bethune explained no matter what is said, and one of the things being said was that black women would be prostitutes for the Army, she explained you hold your head high and when you march in cadence Mary McLeod Bethune will march beside you.

She said I can't by age and infirmity, I cannot go, but go for me and go proudly and go bravely and serve your country. I am one, thank God, who went and my life in the Women's Army Corps, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was doubly enriched and it was natural then that when the war was over and peace came to our great land that I would return again to Washington and go to Howard University Law School and become a part of the National Council of Negro Women.

For me and other women who served, some of us died, you know, and are buried around the cemeteries of this country, black women, who gave their lives. I hope, I pray, I petition your support for this bill. I thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Roundtree follows:]

TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY DOVEY ROUNDTREE
GENERAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

I, Attorney Dovey Roundtree, General Counsel for the National Council of Negro Women, come before this Committee today to request the support of the United States Senate for the bill, Senate 2436 to designate the "Mary McLeod Bethune Council House," located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., a national historic site.

Inspired by the crucial need to rectify discriminatory practices against women and more specifically Negro women, the Negro Women in National Defense was organized by Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune and Mrs. Norma C. Boyd, National Chairman of the Non-Partisan Council of Public Affairs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. As an initial step in addressing these needs a "nation-wide call" was made to women of various organizations to convene at a national conference organized to give consideration to these issues. This conference was held June 28-30, 1941 at Howard University. As a result of the recommendations made at this conference, the National Council of Negro Women began its efforts to amend discriminatory practices in Civil Defense, and began its campaign to unite all women in an effort to aid the U.S. in all areas of Civil Defense. So involved was Mary McLeod Bethune in the pursuit of justice for women, she staged a protest against the Department of War concerning the assault against the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (W.A.A.C.s)

In addition to Mrs. Bethune's efforts to involve the NCNW in Civil Defense, her endeavors extended beyond the Council. In 1943 Mrs. Bethune was appointed the first officer in Command and was given the title, General of the Women's Army on National Defense (W.A.N.D.), a program primarily established to mobolize women for

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various areas of civilian defense.

Under Mrs. Bethune's leadership, the WANDS was the first governmental effort to develop programs and activities for the benefit of women who served in the armed forces. Some of these programs and activities included the establishment of a housing project in Chicago, Illinois, which served as a resident house for women in war work, the sale of war bonds and stamps; and the support of the only Negro Red Cross Canteen Corps in America.

Mrs. Bethune also served as one of thirteen (13) delegates, as well as Co-area Advisor to Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby for the W.A.A.C. As a recruiter of women, specifically Negro women to the W.A.A.C., Bethune was also instrumental in the integration of the Women's Army Corps (WACs) Band #2, Des Moines, Iowa, and the enlistment of Negroes in the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Senator WARNER. Thank you very much.

Dr. HEIGHT. Mrs. Howard Thurmond, who is an author and who worked in the early days is in San Francisco, unable to be here, but Dr. Betty Thomas, who is the director of our historic program, would like to read into the record her statement, which she dictated across the country.

STATEMENT OF SUE BAILY THURMOND, FOUNDER AND EDITOR, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN'S JOURNAL, AS PRESENTED BY DR. BETTY THOMAS, DIRECTOR, HISTORIC PROGRAM, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

Dr. THOMAS. This is the testimony of Mrs. Sue Baily Thurmond, otherwise known as Mrs. Howard Thurmond, the founder and editor of the National Council of Negro Women's first publication, the Afro-American Women's Journal and collector of materials for the National Archives for then Negro Women's History, now Black Women's History.

And I quote: When the National Council of Negro Women was organized in October 1935, its founder Mary McLeod Bethune had no way of knowing that it would become the single most important event to focus on the life of black women in America.

Mrs. Bethune assembled 18 representative national organizations which included educational, fraternal, religious, business, and professional groups. It was the moment in history when black women

took a giant leap into the mainstream of American life. Here they would influence significantly the course of its direction. 1318 Vermont, in the Nation's Capital, known the country over as National Council House was the birthplace of the corporate ideas and dreams that would inform the action of these 800,000 women to this day.

Moving into the war years, it was from this place that the NCNW fought to become active in the WACs and the WAVEs. They joined other national women's organizations in binding up the Nation's wounds after World War II. Plans were made here for voter's education that extended from Seattle to Miami, from San Diego to Portland, Maine. The building was a beehive through six administrations, Democratic and Republican, council members being fully represented in both parties of Government.

It was from this building that Mrs. Bethune with a half-dozen of her council officers left for San Francisco to participate in the organization of the United Nations. Her voice representing the council influenced some of the most important deliberations.

As founder-editor of the council's first house organ, the Afro-American Women's Journal and collector of its archives, I was present when 1318 Vermont became itself a national presence. To designate this building as a national historic site would reflect a care and an appreciation of a dream and a long-held faith by Mary McLeod Bethune.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. HEIGHT. We have with us two of the many people who are working with us very actively. Mr. Timothy Jenkins of MATCH Institute is a member of our advisory committee and Mr. Burstein has been serving with us as counsel for a number of years through a number of projects and I will ask Mr. Jenkins to speak first.

STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY JENKINS, CHAIRMAN, MATCH INSTITUTION

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate being given this opportunity to be heard on this very important bill. I come not only in the capacity as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the museum and archives, but also as a long-time resident of the Logan Circle historic district, living at number 15 Logan Circle.

In addition to that I come as vice chairman of the Council of One Hundred, a black republican organization, which you were gracious enough to participate in last Monday, along with Vice President Bush. In all of those capacities, I come here because I think each of them speaks to the purpose and importance of this legislation, S. 2436.

The Charter House and the Council House represent an important way in which the history of black women can be given living monuments and testimony. There are those who would say that the mere presence of a statue in Lincoln Park is an adequate testimony to her contribution. We would disagree.

Because we believe her contribution to be more than a bronze image. It is a living work that has to do with the interpretations not only of the celebrated black women, but the anonymous black women who made contributions in all aspects of American life.

As you will see in the legislation as proposed and as voted out in the committee in the House, it is a matter of interpretation and bearing the cost of that interpretation an outreach program is the very core of this whole monument. It is not a building alone. It is in an historic district that has many statues of Civil War figures, but it is a different kind of statue that we wish to preserve. It is one that speaks to the youth that walked the streets and in our particular neighborhood it got quite a reputation for some of those who walked the street.

And it is very important that the youth see that there is more than one image to emulate in their growth and development. And the kind of image that is represented by Mary McLeod Bethune is one that I think young men and young women can draw great inspiration from. And it is not just a static building that will stand there and just be seen, it is a place they can go in and pick up literature, see photographs and know that they have a history and a heritage that is part of the great moments of the history of this country and the world.

There are those who would say that simply the designation of the Bethune house in Daytona, Fla., is an adequate monument, but we would again disagree. If Mary McLeod Bethune means anything, she means something as a national and international figure.

With all due respect to Daytona, Fla., I think there is no way in which the Nation can appreciate her contributions without being in the national city and it is because of that that we think it is important that we not just have this recognition at the far tip of our country, but rather at the core of the political and national life so that it is understood that we have made a contribution that is not only regional but national, the kind of contribution that Mary McLeod Bethune gave her entire life to.

As a person who has been supportive of this administration's efforts to emphasize the question of voluntarism, I think there is a special importance in this monument. You perceptively raised the question of documenting and quantifying the degree to which that voluntary contribution has been made, I think that ought to be emphasized and I think you will be impressed when you see the numbers.

The numbers go far beyond just the business of the dollars that have been contributed but the artifacts that have been lovingly preserved and stored there and on display all represent the kind of voluntarism that the President has spoken of and that the Republican Party believes is at the core of the salvation of this country.

And I think in a very important way what we are trying to do here is to spread that message so it is understood to the black community and to the white community that we are prepared to bear our part of the burden, that we wish simply to be met half-way by the Nation.

We think it is important to have this kind of recognition, because for too long the dustbins of history have been the only place where black women have been reconciled. And I think coming as we do at

this historic hearing we will open a way for the Nation to rectify that longstanding injustice.

Thank you.

Senator WARNER. Thank you, Mr. Jenkins. That was a very impressive presentation. I wonder if you could help, you and Dr. Height, we need to try and isolate some estimates of the cost of the annual operating and maintenance that will be required.

This is an area in which we will have to do some negotiating with the Department of Interior, in fairness to the Department. They have the responsibility to isolate those estimates accurately and I will need the figures when I take this to the Senate. My colleagues will question me on that point.

Now we have another witness?

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH BURSTEIN, ATTORNEY, FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS, SHRIVER, & KAMPELMAN

Mr. BURSTEIN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Joseph Burstein. Until 1979, I was with HUD and I got to know the National Council of Negro Women in the midsixties. I want to give you a sense of the character of this organization, which carries on what they propose to do with the Mary McLeod house.

At that time, the National Council was interested in doing something about housing in Mississippi and we were able to work out an arrangement under which the traditional public housing program was made available on the basis of the occupants having the opportunity to earn an equity and thereby acquire ownership in the house instead of just renting the house.

That experiment was also funded by the Ford Foundation, as it spread elsewhere in the country but it demonstrates that the National Council as you have heard otherwise this morning is not looking for Government handouts. They are prepared not only on behalf of themselves but on behalf of the people they are trying to help to get the people to do so on the basis of helping themselves and providing a place of dignity for their families.

More recently in connection with this facility, I am helping them in this and in helping them get legislation through, but in the course of studying that I was amazed at how much had been done at the facility itself with their own funds plus some from others.

I know the question has come up about the cooperative agreement, arrangement. I think in the case of an institution like the National Council, this is the most desirable way to go. There are precedents and I have them here that I will be glad to submit.

Senator WARNER. That is very important and I think we should spend a few moments on that issue because the Department of The Interior is concerned as to whether or not we are establishing new precedents.

Mr. BURSTEIN. I have here given to me the Belmont House in Washington, D.C., the Folger Library, the Corcoran Library, all in Washington, and then the African-American Meeting House in Boston and that is four examples of cooperative agreements.

As Senator Hatfield pointed out earlier, this seems the most desirable thing to do, instead of acquiring the house which would not be very expensive to acquire and having the responsibility for run-

ning the place, instead of this arrangement all of that responsibility is in the National Council and the Parks Service would only provide what is necessary for the appropriate preservation and the continuation of the functioning of this facility.

I was about to say and to mention one particular aspect of this facility, which is unlike any other that I know about from the standpoint of the historical preservation. You have heard mentioned this morning the fact that the facility is a museum and also contains archives. These archives as far as I can determine are probably the most important and they are growing and having to do with black women's history. Black women's history, of course, is black history in this country and one of the things that I have been trying to develop in connection with this facility is the idea that there are historical buildings all over the country that are now being preserved, not by way of Government funding, but by way of tax incentives, which developers are interested in using as a way of preserving these structures and yet using them for useful purposes in the current society.

I propose to develop or help develop these archives as a source where people interested in developing these historic properties from a commercial standpoint from all over the country will be able to go and find the support necessary to establish the historic nature of the building.

There are many such buildings that are historical with a black history but nonetheless the less historic from that standpoint we expect that part of the matching support that we hope to get for the continuation of this facility will come from the development of these archives and from the use of archives in this manner and for that reason one of the basic underlying costs, and that is why the hundreds of thousands of dollars authorization as a basic cost has to do primarily with staffing of the people that will be able to develop the archives to respond to this kind of information that we request.

I hope that will be coming from many.

Senator WARNER. Thank you very much.

Mr. De Forest, were you anticipating to testify?

Mr. DE FOREST. I was called yesterday. I found out about the hearing late, so I will just be an observer today.

Senator WARNER. I know that you and your colleagues have worked on this project for many years. As a matter of fact we worked together in 1974, did we not?

Mr. DE FOREST. Yes.

Dr. HEIGHT. We worked together too on the bicentennial.

Senator WARNER. This is a project we have been in partnership on for many years. I had to get elected to the Senate to get it going and keep it going. Would you, Mr. De Forest, trace the history through your organization and contribute to the record some material?

STATEMENT OF VINCE DE FOREST, AFRO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DE FOREST. I think in terms of a brief history, as you are aware, we started in about 1970 with the bicentennial as a catalyst

to begin to sensitize the overall land planning program of the country. At that time approximately 1500 sites were in the system and of that number only three related to the role that black Americans played to the history and development of our country.

With the help of this committee and the House committee we were able to get a 3-year grant that began a 3-year research effort under the auspices of the National Park Service to begin to identify sites across the country that would be worthy of national historical recognition with the idea that some of these sites would be hopefully included into the National Park System.

We are very proud of the record that we have established over that 3-year period. We have had help from throughout the States. In 1977, I believe, we were able to get the first black woman included into the National Park System, but the problem is that there is still such a deficiency both in the landmark program as well as in the system and hopefully the sensitivity of this committee and the House committee will afford the opportunity for the National Council House, which we have pushed for for recognition, hopefully that this house will be afforded the recognition it duly deserves.

I think that out of all of the historic sites that would commemorate both the achievements of Mrs. Bethune and the National Council, the Vermont Street National Council office is by far the best site for that consideration.

I, again, would like to thank you for the opportunity to make these brief statements.

Senator WARNER. We thank you, Mr. De Forest. Let's work together to see if we can't put together a study. The Department of The Interior indicates a study should be made and I am sure the materials are around and the study can be put together quickly.

We will now hear from the Department of the Interior and I would hope you could be present in the hearing room as the Department testifies.

Dr. HEIGHT. Thank you.

Senator WARNER. Mr. Ira Hutchison, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

STATEMENT OF IRA J. HUTCHISON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. HUTCHISON. Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Senator WARNER. I have read through your testimony very carefully and we will include it all into the record. It would be particularly helpful, I think, if we could go to what I believe are the two principal points, the first being that a study should be prepared, presumably under the auspices of the Department of the Interior and would you address that need?

Mr. HUTCHISON. As I identified in my statement, Mr. Chairman, the National Park Service, as a matter of practice and policy, conducts a study to determine national significance and uses the result of that study as the basis for its recommendation or response to questions as to the significance of a historic site and its eligibility for establishment or designation as a national historic site.

The point to be made in this statement is that we have not conducted such a study on the Council House itself. The statement

also goes on to say, however, Mr. Chairman, that we have, since the House hearing, been made aware of a variety of scholarly material, professional material, that does, in fact, address this issue. And we believe that our staff in a very short time and at a very, very low cost could use that material plus other material and perhaps within 60 to 90 days complete such a study to determine national significance.

Senator WARNER. What is the cost that you think will be involved?

Mr. HUTCHISON. Less than $1,000, sir.

Senator WARNER. Let's get on with it. I think we have got to do it in less than 60 to 90 days. I would hope to take this legislation to the floor before the intensity of our program begins in October.

Mr. HUTCHISON. We will do our best, sir.

Senator WARNER. You see here in the audience persons who devoted much of their lifetimes to this task. We studied it with intensity back in the bicentennial administration. So I think it is more or less a review of existing materials and providing your own judgment. I would hope you could reduce that time necessary.

I will, personally, speak with Secretary Watt and ask him to do it.

Now, there needs to be some refinement in the cooperative agreement points here. There is a willingness on the part of Dr. Height and her colleagues to work with you on that. Do you have any estimates of what you think will be involved?

Mr. HUTCHISON. We have not looked at maintenance costs and what have you. Again, the Department does not, in fact, encourage the extensive kind of Federal involvement in nonfederally owned property as has been identified in the legislation.

However, Mr. Chairman, I do call attention to the fact that the 1935 historic sites legislation on the determination of national significance authorizes the Secretary to sit down with owners of such properties and in effect negotiate a cooperative agreement and arrive at the best possible——

Senator WARNER. The committee knows that.

Mr. HUTCHISON. And that could be accomplished with or without legislation.

Senator WARNER. Are there any other points you wish to raise?

Mr. HUTCHISON. I would just emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that part of my statement that speaks to the mandatory requirement that the Secretary enter into an agreement spells out specific areas that should be addressed; for example, maintenance and basic operations.

In this time of austerity and fiscal constraints, we are in a posture at this point and time where at best we would see in our relationships with owners of non-Federal property a limitation of funding basically to technical assistance and consultation and other activities within that area.

Senator WARNER. I was interested to learn from Mr. Burstein that there are precedents and you, I am sure, took notes with reference to his testimony and he is still here. Perhaps you could reconcile any differences.

Mr. HUTCHISON. I think the difference, Mr. Chairman, is, of course, that our position is that we have not recommended such

action in the face of proposals. I think you will find in those instances that, in fact, sites like Boston Afro American are now a part of the system, that those agreements were dictated by the legislation itself.

Senator WARNER. The Congress may dictate again. This institution in this area provides hope at a time when hope is very much in need in this country.

If you have nothing further, we thank you, and we will take a 2-minute recess and then hear from the panel beginning with Secretary Hodel on Wolf Trap.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hutchison follows:]

STATEMENT OF IRA J. HUTCHISON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ON S. 2436, A BILL "TO DESIGNATE THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

JULY 2, 1982

MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ON S. 2436, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

THE BILL DESIGNATES THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE AT 1318 VERMONT AVENUE NORTHWEST, IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. IT FURTHER DIRECTS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN (WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD TITLE TO THE PROPERTY), BY WHICH THE SECRETARY WILL ASSIST IN INTERPRETING, RESTORING, AND MAINTAINING THE SITE, INCLUDING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRESERVING AND INTERPRETING THE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE WAS BORN IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA. WIDELY KNOWN AS AN EDUCATOR, SHE FOUNDED BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA. HOWEVER, AT VARIOUS TIMES IN HER LIFE SHE WAS ACTIVE IN GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON, BEGINNING WITH THE EARLY ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION, AND LATER IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WHEN WE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AN IDENTICAL BILL WE RECOMMENDED AGAINST ITS ENACTMENT. OUR RECOMMENDATION THEN AND OUR RECOMMENDATION TODAY ARE BASED ON THE FACT THAT WITHOUT A STUDY OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE, WE CANNOT SUPPORT NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PROPERTY. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS DONE NO STUDY OF THE SITE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT, AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS NEVER RECOMMENDED DESIGNATION OF A PROPERTY AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE WITHOUT A PROFESSIONAL STUDY.

ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS NOT DONE A STUDY OF THE HOME IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WE UNDERSTAND FROM INFORMATION RECENTLY RECEIVED THAT A STUDY OF HER HOME IN WASHINGTON WAS CONDUCTED IN 1974 BY THE AFRO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. THIS STUDY IS ENTITLED, "A STUDY OF HISTORIC SITES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO AFRO-AMERICANS, PART II." BASED ON THIS INFORMATION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY, WHICH WE FEEL IS NECESSARY, CAN BE COMPLETED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND AT A LOW COST USING THE DATA FROM THE AFRO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE'S STUDY AND OTHER INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE TO US.

WE ALSO POINT OUT THAT MARY BETHUNE'S HOME ON THE CAMPUS OF BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE WAS STUDIED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR ITS NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN 1974. LANDMARK STATUS RECOGNIZES THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOME ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS IN FLORIDA.

OUR POSITION BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE WAS INTERPRETED AS BEING AGAINST APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF MARY BETHUNE AND THE WORK THAT SHE DID. SUCH AN INTERPRETATION IS NOT CORRECT. CLEARLY, MARY BETHUNE WAS A NATIONAL FIGURE IN OUR HISTORY AND CLEARLY HER WORK HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN THE LANDMARK DESIGNATION AT DAYTONA BEACH. IN ADDITION, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OPERATES AND MAINTAINS THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE IN LINCOLN PARK HERE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. THIS MEMORIAL WAS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IN THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF JUNE 1, 1960, AS AMENDED.

THEREFORE, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE OPPOSE THE ENACTMENT OF S. 2436 BECAUSE A STUDY MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AS A PREREQUISITE TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND BECAUSE ADEQUATE RECOGNITION OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES IS ALREADY COMMEMORATED IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE MANDATORY NATURE OF THE BILL IN DIRECTING THAT THE SECRETARY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNCIL. IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, IN A TIME OF OVERALL BUDGETARY RESTRAINT, TO LIMIT FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO OWNERS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES ONLY TO TECHNICAL AND INTERPRETIVE ASSISTANCE. AS WE UNDERSTAND THE PROPOSAL, THE BILL'S PROPONENTS FORESEE THE SECRETARY FUNDING BASIC OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND STAFF EXPENSES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR A NON-FEDERAL PROPERTY, AND WE WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE SUCH EXPENDITURES.

THIS CONCLUDES MY PREPARED STATEMENT ON S. 2436, MR. CHAIRMAN. I WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU OR THE MEMBERS OF YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE MAY HAVE.

[Whereupon, there was a recess.]

Senator WARNER. The subcommittee now will resume its hearing. The subject is the proposed legislation that I have introduced on behalf of the present administration and the Senate and a number of congressional people on Wolf Trap, S. 1999.

Congressman Wolf, you introduced it on behalf of the House. Is that correct?

Mr. WOLF. That is correct.

Senator WARNER. We will open this hearing with your testimony, Mr. Wolf.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Mr. WOLF. I appreciate the opportunity to offer this statement to you today in support of legislation to provide financial assistance to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts for reconstruction of the Filene Center at Wolf Trap Farm Park.

We were all saddened on April 4 of this year when we learned of the devastating fire at the Filene Center which is a part of my congressional district in northern Virginia. This was a loss not only for the people of the Washington area, but for the millions from all over the country and around the world who have enjoyed a program at Wolf Trap.

But out of the sadness of that tragic evening quickly grew a community spirit that proclaimed Wolf Trap would live again and be stronger than ever.

That spirit turned into a true partnership on May 27 when an announcement was made that the Federal Government was committed to the rebuilding project for Wolf Trap and had agreed to a sharing plan that was offered between the Government and the private sector.

By providing a grant for 50 percent of the cost to rebuild the Filene Center and a loan to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the remaining 50 percent, the administration has recognized the importance of Wolf Trap as a truly national cultural treasure.

This plan will make it possible to contract for the rebuilding project immediately instead of waiting until full funding from Government and private sources had been secured, which could have crippled efforts to revive this center for the performing arts.

I was serving at the Department of the Interior in 1971 when the Wolf Trap was rebuilt after another disastrous fire and I firmly believe that the spirit that prevailed over those other setbacks still survives today. The tremendous outpouring of private support which began immediately after the fire demonstrates the public's pledge to insure Wolf Trap's survival.

With the Federal Government's commitment as a partner in the rebuilding project at this facility operated by the National Park Service, it will now be more important than ever for the private fundraising effort to continue to meet that share.

It is important that we all work together to see that the Filene Center is rebuilt in time for the 1983 season. I know the members of this committee understand the importance of prompt congres-

sional action to authorize this legislation in order for this rebuilding project to begin as soon as possible.

I also pledge to do everything possible to see that this legislation is passed by the House. Again, Senator, I want to thank you for moving quickly and you were involved in this from the very next day and for holding these hearings very quickly and I appreciate that very much.

Senator WARNER. We appreciate your comments, you have been the spirit of this in many respects, and I think both of us from the State of Virginia, wish to make it very clear this is a national project. It is enjoyed by people from all over America as they come to visit the Nation's Capital. So in a sense we may have a special trusteeship, not only for Virginia and Maryland and the greater Washington area, but for the whole country.

As you and I know, since we were a party to it, the President has taken a very great personal interest in this. He has talked about it on several occasions.

The chairman, Senator McClure, was not able to join us this morning, but as you know he likewise takes leadership in the Senate on this and most importantly he will follow through on appropriation matters.

Mr. Wolf, we thank you and we will now go to Secretary Hodel.

Mr. WOLF. Thank you, Senator.

Senator WARNER. We will have you joined by Secretary Miller and Mrs. Harford.

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to have Jack Fish, who is also our Regional Director for the National Park Service, National Capital Region join us.

Senator WARNER. It is always a pleasure to have you with us, Jack.

Mr. FISH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator WARNER. Mrs. Harford, would you like to join with Secretary Hodel and we will have a panel discussion. Mr. Miller, it is a pleasure to see you back again. You are no stranger to the halls of Congress.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, sir. It has been a while since I testified, but I can't think of a better cause than one we can all share in common. I was pleased to be invited.

Senator WARNER. As you know your old committee stayed up until the wee hours of the morning last night with the tax package.

Mr. MILLER. Yes, I was glad I did not have to participate in that markup. As you know our administration always favored lower taxes.

Senator WARNER. Mr. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF HON. DONALD P. HODEL, UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR; ACCOMPANIED BY MANUS J. FISH, JR., REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Secretary HODEL. Thank you, Senator. I will refrain from commenting on the previous dialog as a representative of this administration, but it is my pleasure to be here today in support of the Wolf Trap legislation. We have proposed legislation that will pro-

vide financial assistance to the Wolf Trap Foundation for rebuilding the Filene Center.

We commend you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on this issue; Congressman Wolf and many others who have participated. We are committed to finding a solution to the rebuilding and reconstruction of this theater. It is an international showcase for the performing arts.

The success of this remarkable and unique park is in large measure a tribute to Catherine Filene Shouse, whose generous donation of the land, the money, and energy helped create Wolf Trap. Her dedication to the performing arts has been unsurpassed and has been a positive addition to the park. We believe that there are innovative programs at the park and especially in the Filene Center that have been enjoyed by thousands over the past several years. We want to maintain that tradition.

The objective of the bill is to recognize the Wolf Trap Foundation as a cooperative partner in the reconstruction of the Filene Center and to provide that the Federal Government will share the cost of that reconstruction. In order to accomplish that, we have proposed a combination grant and loan arrangement with an estimated cost of replacement.

Of $18 million we have suggested that a $9 million grant and a $9 million loan be authorized with the loan to be repaid with interest by the Foundation.

Senator WARNER. On that point, Mr. Secretary, the original structure cost was $3.5 million. Is that the figure you used for your base?

Secretary HODEL. Yes.

Senator WARNER. And the 18 will replace what was destroyed by fire?

Secretary HODEL. Actually, Mr. Chairman, the derivation of——

Senator WARNER. I think it is important to draw a parallel distinction between the $3.5 million and the $18 million because there has been inflation under the previous Democratic administration businesswise.

Secretary HODEL. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman.

Senator WARNER. And I want to get that into the record. We can hear from the Secretary on that point later.

Secretary HODEL. I would certainly like to expend if I may some appropriate time on the derivation of the $18 million and how that related to what we think can and needs to be done at the park.

The bill we believe as constructed will permit an adequate and prompt reconstruction of the Filene Center. It also permits the Secretary to cooperate with the Wolf Trap Foundation as he has in the past. One of the questions, Mr. Chairman, that is often raised is why are we proceeding now and in this fashion.

As is well known from the many comments upon the fire and the subsequent events, the Government is a self-insurer. That means to me, and I have said frequently, when the opportunity presents itself, we will recognize our obligation to rebuild the facility and in due course we would propose to do that.

But the words "in due course" are not satisfactory for a facility such as this one which has a present vitality. We are convinced in conversations with the foundation, and I have certainly found total

confirmation, that a break in the continuity of the Wolf Trap Foundation, activities could be severely detrimental to that program and take years to rebuild the kind of support which is now available and, therefore, although under a self- insurance program, realistically we should be here eventually, along with other Park Service priorities, asking for the funds necessary to rebuild the facility in total by the Federal Government.

That would probably result in an extended construction appropriation process and would not be satisfactory. So, we look for some solution which would permit the foundation, because of its foundation status, independent, non-Federal status, to move much more expeditiously than we can move.

And we felt that if we could propose a combination grant and loan program, the tremendous outpouring of public support and sympathy can be captured now. I believe that Senator Hatfield earlier said that private resources come in cycles and I believe that is true. There will never be a better time in my estimation than now for people to participate in the reconstruction of Wolf Trap.

The President in speaking with Mrs. Shouse and pledging his support for the reconstruction, indicated that this was an excellent opportunity for the voluntarism approach, the combination of Federal and private support, to work together to rebuild Wolf Trap.

As a result, we have proceeded rapidly, as you know, to put up a temporary facility. A significant portion of that was paid by Park Service through reprograming and an additional significant portion of that was paid by the foundation and in combination we now have a facility which will permit temporary continuity in the Wolf Trap program.

Now, we are looking at reconstruction and we believe this bill is an appropriate vehicle. To those who raise the question how can we in our current budget constraints come forward with these kinds of moneys, I think the answer is if we move now we believe geninely that half of the cost will be borne by volunteers and supporters of Wolf Trap and that is a significant step forward and philosophically very compatible with what we are trying to accomplish.

I would like to close just by commenting that yesterday in the President's transmittal of a budget action to the Congress, we requested a 1982 supplemental of $9 million and a 1983 amendment of $9 million to support this legislation, although obviously at this stage we do not have the bill completed, we felt it was essential to move rapidly and I think that manifests the extent of the administration's and particularly the President's commitment to this rebuilding effort.

Senator WARNER. I believe I received the proposed bill last night. Counsel, is that correct, that it was officially brought into the Senate?

Secretary HODEL. Yes sir, that is correct, Senator.

Senator WARNER. And at some point in time, Chairman McClure and I will substitute that draft for my pending one over here.

Secretary HODEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I would be happy to try to respond to questions, and particularly if you would like to comment on the cost question.

[The prepared statement of Secretary Hodel follows:]

STATEMENT OF DONALD PAUL HODEL, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, UNITED STATES SENATE.

JULY 2, 1982

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to appear before you today to discuss the Administration's position on the reconstruction of the Filene Center in Wolf Trap Farm Park. We have proposed legislation that will provide financial assistance to the Wolf Trap Foundation for rebuilding the Filene Center, the theater which was completely destroyed by fire last April 4.

We commend Senator Warner for his leadership on this issue. We in the Administration are committed to finding a fair solution to the problem of reconstruction of the theater. The Filene Center at Wolf Trap Farm Park was internationally known as a showcase for the performing arts. The success of this remarkable and unique park is, in large measure, a tribute to Catherine Filene Shouse, whose generous donation of land, money and energy helped create Wolf Trap. Her dedication to the performing arts is unsurpassed and has been a positive addition to the Park. The innovative programs at the park, and especially in the Filene Center, have been enjoyed by thousands over the past several years.

After a tragic fire destroyed the main theater structure, President Reagan personally assured Mrs. Shouse of his concern over the loss and pledged the cooperation of this Administration in continuing their fine work at the Filene Center. The Administration's draft bill would enable the Wolf Trap Foundation to provide prompt reconstruction of the theater. The proposed legislation does two things:

---it recognizes the Wolf Trap Foundation as a cooperative partner in the reconstruction of the Filene Center; and

---it provides that the Federal Government will share the costs of the reconstruction with the Foundation.

In order to accomplish this second point, a combination grant and loan arrangement has been devised. The estimated cost of replacing the theater today is $18,000,000. $9,000,000 would be granted to the Wolf Trap Foundation. Another $9,000,000 would be made available in the form of a loan to be repaid, with interest, by the Foundation.

The Administration believes this bill will provide early and adequate reconstruction of the Filene Center. It will also authorize the Secretary to cooperate with the Wolf Trap Foundation, as we have in the past.

This concludes my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to answer any questions you or the members of the Subcommittee may have.

Senator WARNER. Is Mr. Fish going to amplify on your testimony? I have noticed a study of the design of a task force, that I think we should make a part of the record here. I think we ought to have a little more documentation for the record exactly what the bill may be. I can wait for that, and testimony, to see whether we might have a deficiency.

So shall we proceed now with that department. Mrs. Harford.

STATEMENT OF CAROL V. HARFORD, PRESIDENT, WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mrs. HARFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. It certainly is a pleasure to be here. It is also an honor. The Wolf Trap Foundation is deeply grateful that the administration and the Congress are moving to assure the American and foreign public a new Filene center for season 1983 at Wolf Trap.

I have the privilege to read a statement by the founder of Wolf Trap, Catherine Filene Shouse, who would like very much to be with us this morning, but is unable to be here.

Mrs. Shouse's statement reads as follows:

STATEMENT OF CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE, FOUNDER, WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Ever since midnight on April 4 when the Filene Center at Wolf Trap was completely destroyed by a devastating fire, the concern, and sadness and offers of support have been expressed by thousands of people. Letters from all over the U.S.A., including donations representing 46 States, cables and telephone calls from France, England, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Bogota offered many varieties of assistance.

These came from world famous musicians, heads of government and just people who loved Wolf Trap and what it had given them.

Almost all questioned what responsibility the government would assume and I have been able to state the Administration decision as has been expressed to me personally on the telephone by President Reagan.

Now, the next important step towards replacing my gift to my government is under way, thanks to Senator Warner of Virginia, and we hopefully anticipate support from Congress for this unique park for people, so necessary in these troubled, tense times.

Wolf Trap Foundation hopes this Committee will support the figures for the reconstruction that are in the request before you. This is a favorable time to begin construction and should there be delays in Congress, the result will be in higher building costs, as much possibly as 15 percent.

The public when Congress makes the funds requested available, I feel, will respond to help the foundation meet its part of the funding agreement.

There is always the need to act quickly in an emergency and that is what our letters from hundreds of thousands of children and grown-ups reflect. They are asking for the rebuilding so that the Filene Center will be in operation in 1983. So many love Wolf Trap and need it.

Mrs. HARFORD. I would like, if I may, at this time, to introduce those from the Wolf Trap Foundation who are with us, and ask that they would stand, Mrs. Russell Long, a member of our executive committee.

Senator WARNER. We welcome you.

Mrs. HARFORD. Mr. John Robertson, a member of the Wolf Trap Foundation Executive Committee; Mr. Jerry Lyman, the general manager of radio station WGMS; Ms. Ann McKee, our director of production of Wolf Trap Foundation; and in addition Mr. Michael Pittas, the director of design arts programs for the National Endowment for the Arts.

I would like if I may, Mr. Chairman, to ask Mr. G. William Miller to speak for the foundation at this time.

Senator WARNER. We welcome you, Mr. Miller.

STATEMENT OF G. WILLIAM MILLER, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, of course, am delighted to be here as vice chairman of the foundation, but also as an interested citizen who believes that this great national asset should be restored as promptly as possible.

The chairman of our foundation is Robert Keith Gray and because he is out of the city, he was unable to be here. I would like your permission to read a short statement from him, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT KEITH GRAY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

As chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation Board and as a citizen interested in seeing the Filene Center reconstructed as soon as possible, I am extremely encouraged by the legislation you are considering today.

I would like to emphasize a point the Committee has heard before. Unless within the next 30 days this authorization legislation passes Congress, along with the appropriations which provide actual funding for reconstruction, it virtually will be impossible to have the Filene Center fully reconstructed by the summer season of 1983.

Conversely, we have made what I consider to be remarkable progress thus far and I strongly believe if Congress agrees to such legislation in the weeks ahead, a new Filene Center will have emerged from its own ashes by the beginning of next summer's season.

I thank you personally, Mr. Chairman, as well as other members of the Committee for your willingness to consider this urgent appeal. I strongly urge the Committee to take expeditious and favorable action to restore a cultural landmark to our Nation.

Mr. MILLER. I think what Secretary Hodel said and Carol Harford and Kay Shouse and Bob Gray all are echoed in my own sentiments. We are very fortunate indeed that someone with the vision and the courage of a Catherine Filene Shouse would have made this Wolf Trap Center available to all of us to work.

And we were certainly all shocked by the tragedy of the fire. I can only repeat what others have said and that is the outpouring of support and offers of help is a rather gratifying and remarkable statement from throughout the world and certainly a statement by the American people, that they consider the Filene Center to be an important public facility and, indeed, a national, cultural treasure.

And so we all have a common interest in responding to that indication of support and trying to reconstruct as promptly as possible.

Secretary Hodel has pointed out that self-insurance is the policy of the Federal Government. It is a wise policy for a Government that has such a broad possession of assets and resources, but as he has pointed out with self-insurance goes the obligation to rebuild. If the White House or the Library of Congress or this Dirksen Building were destroyed by fire, I am sure Congress would act with great speed to put them back into service to meet the public needs. And I think we have the same sort of thing here, the same sense of urgency.

Because once a cultural center is interrupted it is not only the season that is missed but the whole continuity of arrangements for the superior performances of excellency, the great artists who must be scheduled and the public support and finance that must be retained. So we do need to act promptly.

I commend you, Mr. Chairman, and the administration for supporting the novel concept that in order to meet the timetable we make this a joint public and private sector effort even though it might be the responsibility of the Federal Government to rebuild in total.

But by making it a joint effort, we can make it a faster timetable and accomplish all of our purposes. For that reason all of us are very encouraged by this hearing and by your initiatives and are hopeful that we can move rather rapidly.

Mr. Chairman, without commenting any more on my statement, I would merely like to make a few selected comments about the proposed legislation. The Department of the Interior has furnished us a copy of their wording on this proposed act. I assume it is the same that we will all be working from, but there are a few comments that I thought I might give to you.

Senator WARNER. Let me interrupt. We are working now from a document that will be transmitted to the Senate in a letter dated July 1, 1982, from Mr. Hodel, addressed to George Bush, the Honorable Vice President of the United States, acting as President of the Senate.

Mr. MILLER. That is the one I have and I thank Secretary Hodel for making a copy available to me.

Senator WARNER. We will put that letter together with a copy of the draft bill in the record at this point. That is the bill that will be substituted. I will substitute that for the pending legislation.

[The above-mentioned letter and draft bill follow:]

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUL 1 1982

Honorable George Bush
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill, the "Wolf Trap Farm Park Act of 1982," to provide financial assistance to the Wolf Trap Foundation for reconstruction of the Filene Center, recently destroyed in a tragic fire.

We recommend that it be introduced and referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and that it be enacted.

Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts was established in 1966 in Vienna, Virginia, as a unit of the National Park System. It quickly became a very popular summer experience for thousands of people in the Washington, D.C., area. Its central feature was the Filene Center, an internationally known showcase for the performing arts. This theater was lost in a devastating fire on April 4, 1982, a tremendous loss not only to the Washington area but also to the nation. As a Federal facility, the theater was not insured, and its destruction has meant that the performing arts programs in the park have been curtailed or moved to a temporary structure.

We believe the enclosed legislation will enable the Wolf Trap Foundation to rebuild the theater quickly. It recognizes that the Foundation and the Federal Government are cooperative partners in this endeavor and provides financial assistance to aid in the prompt reconstruction of the Filene Center. The Federal Government will share the costs of reconstruction with the Wolf Trap Foundation by authorizing a grant for $9,000,000 and a loan, with interest, for an additional $9,000,000. We urge your support in this matter.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that this legislative proposal is in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

Donald Paul Hodel

Donald Paul Hodel
Under SECRETARY

Enclosure

A BILL

To provide financial assistance to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts for reconstruction of the Filene Center in Wolf Trap Farm Park and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Wolf Trap Farm Park Act of 1982."

SEC. 2. The purposes of this Act are to —

(1) allow the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the Wolf Trap Foundation (Foundation) for the Performing Arts in the operation of Wolf Trap Farm Park (Park); and

(2) provide financial assistance to the Foundation for reconstruction of the Filene Center in the Park.

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide to the Foundation, or its designee, on such terms and conditions as he deems appropriate, for reconstruction of the Filene Center in the Park: (1) a grant not to exceed $9,000,000; and (2) a loan not to exceed $9,000,000 to be repaid in full, with interest on any unpaid obligation at a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consideration current market yields on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the maturity of the loan, plus an allowance adequate, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, to cover the administrative expenses of servicing the loan. In his determination of terms and conditions governing the loan, the Secretary shall fix a term of not more than five years from the date the loan agreement is executed.

(b) For purposes of carrying out the grant and loan under subsection (a) of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed $18,000,000, and such sums shall remain available until expended.

(c) All right, title and interest in any reconstructed Filene Center in the Park shall vest in the United States. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide support services in the reconstruction of the Filene Center, as requested by the Foundation, on a reimbursable basis, for the purposes of this Act.

(d) The authority conferred in subsections (a) through (c) of this section shall lapse if funds therefor are not appropriated within five years of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. Section 3 of the Act of October 25, 1966 (80 Stat. 950) is redesignated as section 4 and the following new section is inserted after section 2:

"SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior shall cooperate with the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, organized pursuant to the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act and, as a charitable organization, exempted from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954, in the operation of the Park, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate."

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman, just a few comments, because the legislation is certainly something we are very, very pleased to see, supported by the administration introduced under your sponsorship.

In section 3 there is the operative language that provides for the grant of $9 million and the loan of $9 million, giving us the aggregate of $18 million to accomplish the task. In connection with the grant the words read that it shall be a grant not to exceed $9 million.

I hope very much that the committee might consider changing that to a grant of $9 million, so that Congress can make the decision and give us certainty so that as we work on this fast track we don't have any possible misunderstanding about the need to have a grant of $9 million—at least in total.

Senator WARNER. Let us dwell on that as technicians here. So we will read one, that is section 1, a grant, striking "not to exceed", and replacing it with the preposition "of".

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir, I would think that would——

Senator WARNER. And in your judgment, and I concur, that would remove any ambiguity that the Government would, say, match dollar for dollar and dollar for dollar that came into the treasury, that is, your treasury. Is that your purpose?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir. I think we need to enter into a contract by August 15 to proceed to build and I think if there is any uncertainty after this legislation is passed as to whether the full $9 million is available or whether it was intended by Congress that it be negotiable, I think we could create some slow down in our effort.

The second comment I would make, and I, obviously, must defer to those who are more informed and more expert than I am, but the preliminary report that I have seen prepared on this subject, indicates that it might take up to $19 million. That is a small difference from the $18 million. But if that is so, I hope that when you look at the reports you might consider changing the two figures that are $9 million in the legislation each to $9.5.

That, again, I merely call your attention to and I think when we look at the reports perhaps we can all see if we need that cushion to be sure that we don't find ourselves slightly below what is really needed.

My third comment has to do with section 3(c), proposed section 3(c) and there——

Senator WARNER. Just pause for a minute. Did I understand you then to say that you are now just suggesting a further amendment that would be $19 million rather than $18 million?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, that would be my preference, sir.

Senator WARNER. That is a formal request then?

Mr. MILLER. Yes, sir. In section 3(c) an issue is raised that I need to just give you a little background. This fire was indeed a tragedy and self-insurance is indeed appropriate Government policy, but it seems to many of us that since the foundation will have an operating agreement with the Department of Interior allowing the foundation to stage performances and will, therefore, have a vital interest in operating the center, it seems to many of us that it would be desirable for the foundation to have an insurable interest so that in the future it could carry insurance and if some future tragedy in

whole or in part takes place, then we would have a more immediate solution through private insurance to help us deal with the situation.

I understand that the legislative counsel of the Department of Interior have worked up some language along this line and will be sending it forward. I have not personally seen the language but the point is a substantive one not a drafting one.

Senator WARNER. As you and I as lawyers understand what they are doing is establishing an insurable interest, which would enable the foundation on its own initiative to get an insurance policy, which hopefully never will be needed, but so there is some measure occurring to get immediate compensation.

Mrs. HARFORD. Correct.

Mr. MILLER. Even a minor fire destroying costumes or something, it seems to me that if we have that insurable interest we are going to be better off in avoiding these kind of interruptions in the future.

Senator WARNER. At that point someone could mention the precautions to be taken in the construction of this building for fire protection. We will not interrupt the Secretary now, but make a little note to come back to it.

Mr. MILLER. We should, because that, I think, has to be a prime objective in this reconstruction. It would prevent this from happening by the construction technique and then to insure against it through the private sector so that the Federal Government will have some more immediate resources to help them in case of future accidents.

The final point I will make on the technical language, Mr. Chairman, has to do with section 4. I understand that there was prior legislation that seemed to limit the amount of money that might be expended by the Department of Interior on the facility and I think again that we may need technical language to insure that the prior legislation does not prohibit the expenditure of these funds for this additional capital investment and development.

That is a very technical point, but I think we might want to address it and I again believe some language may be forthcoming on that point.

So those are my comments and I would only close by saying what others have said that time is of the essence. I believe it is important that we have this enacted and ready to be signed by the President by the August recess so that we can move rapidly forward in the foundation to enter into the necessary construction agreements and return it to its full operational capacity by the beginning of the next season.

I thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Miller follows:]

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Statement By

G. William Miller

Wolf Trap Farm Park Act of 1982

July 2, 1982

The fire which destroyed the Filene Center at Wolf Trap Farm Park was a national tragedy. The tremendous response from all corners of the country, with expressions of concern and offers of help, has been gratifying. It is clear that the American people consider Wolf Trap an important public institution and a highly valued cultural asset. The task now is to rebuild as quickly as possible and to insure that the tragedy is never repeated.

The Filene Center was a Federal building. As such it was self-insured. This is appropriate as a matter of public policy. But with self-insurance goes the responsibility to rebuild. If the White House or the Library of Congress or the Dirksen Building were destroyed by fire, I am sure that Congress would promptly appropriate funds for reconstruction. There should be no less a response in reconstructing the Filene Center.

While it is clear to me the responsibility for reconstruction lies with the Federal government-- a responsibility which should be met immediately by the Administration and the Congress-- it is also necessary to recognize the current budgetary difficulties. For this reason, it would be

appropriate in this case to approach the reconstruction as a partnership between the public and the private sectors. The sharing of responsibilities would not only ease the budgetary burden but also speed up the process of rebuilding so that the Center can be fully operational for the 1983 summer season. Such a partnership would best be accomplished along the lines set forth in the "Wolf Trap Farm Park Act of 1982". The combination of a grant and a loan to the Wolf Trap Foundation, if provided promptly, would permit reconstruction on an expedited basis and assure that the Center would be fully operational once again to serve the public by June of next year.

The Administration supports the proposal for a grant not to exceed $9.0 million and a loan in an equal amount. In view of the preliminary reconstruction study, in my opinion the grant and the loan should each be 9.5 million to assure adequate funds. I also recommend that the committee delete the words "not to exceed" in reference to the grant, so it will be clear that the grant is a fixed amount sufficient to accomplish the purpose of the legislation. This would allow the Foundation to proceed immediately with the reconstruction program and permit sufficient time for a national fund raising effort to repay any borrowed monies.

As one who has dealt with similar problems, I appreciate the current budgetary constraints. But a fire that destroys a great public facility is an Act of God outside the ordinary course of business. It deserves to be treated as an extraordinary item and to be dealt with promptly and

decisively.

The proposed legislation would allow the Wolf Trap Foundation to proceed on a fast track reconstruction program. This is the first priority. However, it is also important that future operating arrangements between the Secretary of the Interior and the Foundation create an insurable interest for the Foundation which would allow it to provide insurance coverage so that any future disaster could be handled to the maximum extent by the private sector.

Time is of the essence, so I urge the Committee to move the proposed Act as quickly as possible, giving due attention to the comments and concerns of all interested parties.

Senator WARNER. We are of the opinion that we may need clarification with respect to the loan concept that is in here. I will address the question to the panel and anyone qualified to answer may do so, so we can put it in the record. Would the cooperative agreement define the terms and conditions for the loan repayment, for example, repayment by contribution for goods and services, in kind designations?

Secretary HODEL. Everybody is looking at me, Mr. Chairman.

Senator WARNER. This is an important point and rather than speculating if you could provide the responses for the record. I was involved years ago in the Kennedy Center financing and they received a number of gifts, particularly from foreign nations and I know that we came to Congress, I was then representing the private side, and it pertained to the necessary legislation to use for those purposes of matching with congressional funds.

So would you examine that part of it?

Secretary HODEL. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And could I give you an initial reaction?

Senator WARNER. Yes.

Secretary HODEL. It would seem to me that to the extent inkind contributions are made it will reduce the need for the loan and therefore, in fact, prior to the making of the loan inkind contributions will absolutely be a credit, if you will, but it is in fact an advanced credit.

After the loan has been made, my understanding would be that the loan would be made as funds are needed for the construction and therefore if contributed actions, materials or work, labor, are available, presumably money advanced for that particular phase of the work would not be expended by the foundation and could therefore, in fact, again replace the money.

So my initial reaction would be absolutely in-kind contributions will have the effect of limiting the need for or reducing the amount of the loan. I should say while we are talking about this, that it is our perception, under this bill, that we would be committed to a grant of $9 million.

No estimate that I have seen even to reconstruct the initial building, is less than that amount. So I am assuming that we will make a grant of $9 million and thereafter, additional amounts, up to the additional $9 million, would be made in the form of a loan. So that any funds collected by the foundation in advance of the making of the loan, any contributions of labor and in-kind donations would reduce the needed amount for the loan, and therefore have the effect of not commencing the running of interest on any moneys advanced.

Senator WARNER. That is a helpful start on this. We may need some refinement. What is the purpose, in your judgment, of section 4? The distinguished Secretary addressed that and I would like to have your views on it.

Secretary HODEL. It is our expectation, Mr. Chairman, that for the foundation to go forth, and raise $9 million either in money contributions or in-kind contributions, they need to be able to evidence not only the support from the grants that we would make but also that they would have an ongoing interest in the facility.

At the present time it is my understanding that we have been operating under a 3-year contract. There is some resistence, as you know, in some quarters for extended operating contracts with people in parks. We have recently extended some of these contracts with concessioners for the purpose of encouraging capital investment by concessions. Here in a sense we are believing that a private organization, the foundation, is being asked to raise $9 million, and perhaps more, and certainly more for the ongoing operations for the performances at Wolf Trap Park.

And therefore we think that it would be appropriate for us to negotiate a cooperative agreement with a longer term; I have talked to the foundation in terms of a 10-year agreement. Secretary Miller and I in conversations the other day, also discussed the possibility that such a contract should have an evergreen-type provision in it, which would be that arbitrarily at the moment suggesting, 3 years prior to the completion of the 10-year term you would renegotiate an extension of that contract, at least for an ongoing 3-year basis.

The result of that would be there would always be an assurance for the foundation that there was at least a 3-year period in which to phase out, if for some reason they were to change their role.

There has been some suggestion also, Mr. Chairman, that we should go further and have a longer term relationship and I am concerned that we not commit that a facility in a national park be committed in perpetuity to any particular organization, the board, of which today, is an outstanding board, excellent people, but we all know that circumstances can change and the thrust of interest may change.

We think it is appropriate to be somewhat able, again, to have park service responsibility over this activity.

Senator WARNER. Mr. Secretary, would you put the full membership of the board in the record at some point?

Mr. MILLER. Yes. I believe that the public policy issue that Secretary Hodel has spoken to is correct. In this case, raising $9 million plus the money that is needed to take care of the temporary expenses of the interrupted season and the lost contracts and so forth means that there is an enormous responsibility of the Foundation to meet its stewardship to those who do contribute and so the thought of a 10-year tenure that then becomes an always 3-year assurance of a phaseout, I think is quite a reasonable proposal and would serve both our needs, stewardship of the Foundation to use the rebuilding money with a long enough tenure to justify the public trust and then a working system where there never can be an abrupt cutoff that would embarrass us all because of commitments for performances.

I think it is a very reasonable proposal and we have not discussed it at the board, but I would recommend to the Foundation board that we concur in that approach.

Senator WARNER. Mr. Secretary Hodel, do you see any strengths in section 3(a) of the draft legislation to grant authority which could delay the rebuilding process?

Secretary HODEL. No, sir; I do not.

Senator WARNER. If we were able to get Senate and House approval to the bill, hopefully by August 1, would this meet your time schedule?

Secretary HODEL. I think, Mr. Chairman, we would feel that would be a most expeditious schedule. We would still have to obtain approval for the supplemental in order to make a grant. We would anticipate, of course, in making the grant that it would be committed but the funds would actually be drawn down as needed for construction activity. But this would permit, the passage of the bill——

Senator WARNER. We have to get this agreement. When could the material——

Secretary HODEL. The cooperative agreement?

Senator WARNER. Yes.

Secretary HODEL. I am confident, Mr. Chairman, that with the spirit of cooperation that has existed from the day the fire occurred between the foundation and the Park Service, and incidentally the National Endowment for the Arts has been most helpful, Frank Hodsoll.

Senator WARNER. I think you mentioned that.

Secretary HODEL. He has been very active and his organization has provided not only technical assistance but financial assistance and we need to recognize that. I am confident that a highly acceptable agreement can be worked out promptly. I visualize basically two agreements and I have not discussed this with the lawyers, so I may be out of line, but it appears to me that it would be a loan agreement and there would be a cooperative agreement for operation of a 10-year duration that Secretary Miller and I have referenced earlier.

Senator WARNER. Has that agreement reached any documentation in the Congress?

Secretary HODEL. Yes; as soon as that is reached we will provide that and I would think also, Mr. Chairman, that one of the points you raised earlier was the question about what it is that we are proposing at this stage be reconstructed.

Senator WARNER. I have a good understanding, but there are some others who do not. We are sharing this with the public; let us tell them just exactly what we are going to get.

Secretary HODEL. The study, which you referenced earlier, about alternatives and various aspects of the reconstruction results in part as expanded in its scope, because of the dialog which I had with Chairman Yates of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations before which the Park Service appeared and we had an extended dialog regarding the reconstruction of Wolf Trap and he suggested——

Senator WARNER. Let me interrupt you. I want to express my appreciation on behalf of this subcommittee and the full committee to the chairman, Congressman Yates, for his help in this matter. It has been most helpful.

Secretary HODEL. He has been most encouraging, Mr. Chairman, and we too appreciate that. He suggested that we not move so rapidly in an effort to reconstruct precisely the facility that existed there before that we had not looked at the options. The document, you have included in the record, does look at the options.

And in that document, beginning on page 13 are some dollar estimates as to the cost of reconstruction and interestingly to reconstruct the original facility, plus——

Senator WARNER. The original in reference to——

Secretary HODEL. The $3.5 million facility, I should say, the facility which was destroyed in April——

Senator WARNER. This year.

Secretary HODEL [continuing]. Fireproofing and safety features added would be roughly $13.5 million, according to this estimate. In addition, there are improvements that can and probably should be made which if all are done would lead to a figure in the neighborhood of $19.3 million.

At this stage it is not clear what among those added items will be added. I think that we will have to take the position that the National Park Service must ultimately approve the facility that is to be built; it must be a Park Service-approved facility that is going to be a Federal property.

I think the cooperative agreement should provide a working arrangement between the Park Service and the foundation as to the precise details of what will be reconstructed.

These numbers in this report give me considerable comfort that the $18 million figure presented in this bill is quite adequate, quite within the range of what is appropriate.

Senator WARNER. Do we have a friendly disagreement here between yourself and the distinguished Secretary of the Treasury?

Secretary HODEL. And I think it is most friendly, yes. Because even included in this report, one thing we all know if delay occurs, for whatever reason, it can add to the cost. But in this estimate that is in the report before you, there is a $1 million contingency figure because of the effort to rebuild rapidly. Since this was put together, the National Endowment for the Arts has received, or

perhaps the foundation, a letter indicating that it may well be that in light of the current construction market there will be no penalty for rapid construction. So there alone may be a $1 million savings.

I believe that we are well within the appropriate range of the $18 million level and that we will be able with the foundation to decide which of these added features are necessary, which are appropriate, and which can perhaps be left for further donation activity later if they are desirable.

Senator WARNER. Again, for clarification the proposal will be for a reconstructed center as you approach it, say, it would look exactly like what was destroyed. Down inside there will be improvements based on experience from operation of the previous center and such additions as you feel necessary for necessary fire protection, which could raise the cost from $13.5 to $18 to $19 million. Is that basically it?

Mrs. HARFORD. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary HODEL. If I could clarify, Mr. Chairman. The $13.5 figure includes fireproofing and safety. The amounts above that include additional rehearsal space, larger backstage areas, moving of the ticket booths, additional toilets and so on, actually improvements to the facility, I think, that nobody would deny they are improvements. We get into what every budget discussion always gets into is that is it an improvement that is now meritorious or one that should be deferred.

Senator WARNER. That as one approaches the center again, we immediately have a memory right back to the original structure. Is that correct? It was a magnificient and unique structure. Is that what you are going to do? That is made out of wood. You debated using other materials than wood. You have come down again for a third time to the same basic construction with added fireproofing.

Mrs. HARFORD. Correct. The same basic design with a wood that can be treated to make it fire retardant and Mr. Mendelsohn our consultant, I might introduce at this time, who might make an additional comment.

Mr. MENDELSOHN. Mr. Chairman, I simply would like to add that there would be steel above the wood and that is going to be a major change in the roof, so that it will be as fireproof as you can possibly make a structure of this kind.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman, I support the prudential approach that Secretary Hodel has indicated. My difference of opinion over a million dollars is because even when we scrub down and have a very prudent approach to what should be done, having the vision to provide facilities that will last a long time and have adequate public facilities, because we have a growing use of this park, to do all of those things, my experience is that there are almost always surprises in terms of unexpected costs, weather, an interruption of some sort, and I would hate to see us move on this very expedited program and then find ourselves so tight that we are a little embarrassed by it.

And I would rather see the fuller number, but I do not disagree with the approach, that we should not just buy things because it is to be rebuilt. We should buy them only because they are proper, necessary, and meritorious.

Senator WARNER. We will have to look at those figures further. I expect a difference of opinion there. It is very important that we portray to the public this fact that the Government is acting as a self-insurer, because there are so many demands being made on the Congress today for dollars, which are growing scarce, trying to cut down the growth, to taxpayers, the burdens to the Government. This is a unique situation.

Here the Government is fulfilling its obligation as a self-insurer and we have some modifications that you feel are justified, that would be appropriate at this time in the new structure. We will have to look at those costs.

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, I would hope too that your colleagues will recognize that as a self-insurer, the whole cost would normally fall on the Government and that in this case by moving expeditiously, the foundation and its supporters are coming forward and offering to pay half, at least, of this cost and to carry forward with the program, which I think makes it a very important distinction from just pulling one facility forward from the priority list and saying let us pour 100 percent of the dollars into it.

Senator WARNER. Good point, Mr. Secretary. There is criticism, and legitimate, that food stamps, medicare, medicaid, homes, a long list of programs that we are investing here in the Congress, a reduction of funds. You have to balance that against this magnificient center for the performing arts.

The decision has been made. It is a sound one and justified and to me we have gone into this partnership and the Government in a sense is not restoring all of the funding as it would normally do under the self-insurer concept.

There are several other questions on the report. Mrs. Harford, would you explain the genesis of who developed it and so forth or was it the Department of the Interior. Mr. Fish, maybe you could.

Mr. FISH. It was a committee set up to review the report. The actual report, however, was done by the architect who designed the original structure and the principal on that was Al Devito and McFadden and Knolles, in addition.

This was funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and Mr. Petox, who was introduced earlier, kind of coordinated this. We did have the, the National Park Service did have a representative on this study group. So this is how it was prepared and as the Under Secretary indicated, there was great interest in comparing the facility, the rebuilt facility with other facilities throughout the country to get a comparison as to the state of the art for outdoor performing arts facilities. All of this was done in a fine manner in this report.

Senator WARNER. Mrs. Harford, you and I and others prior to this discussed the impact on the center with the proposed Dulles access road. Now in connection with the restoration of the center, has that been taken into consideration and in your judgment adequately provided?

Mrs. HARFORD. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it has. Very careful consideration was given to the proposed parallel lanes. The feeling is that precautions have been taken and our conversations with the FAA and the Virginia Highway Commission assure us that Wolf Trap

Filene Center will not be impacted adversely either functionally or esthetically.

Senator WARNER. The last question the chairman asks to what extent can you share with us now the success of your independent fundraising program?

Mrs. HARFORD. A great amount of success of the independent fundraising program has been dependent upon the Government assuming its position and this hearing this morning will advance the measure of the art fundraising attempts.

Senator WARNER. Perhaps we can open that up a little bit. Like the cart before the horse, if I as an individual were anxious to contribute, before I sent my money in I would want to make certain not to fail, that it was a legitimate and legal responsibility and that presumably would be done if this legislation passes and receives the President's signature.

Mrs. HARFORD. That is correct. But I think it is of interest that 8,151 individuals from 46 States and some foreign countries have already spontaneously sent in $1,232,575.48.

Senator WARNER. That is a remarkable achievement in view of the uncertainty.

Mrs. HARFORD. Yes, and it has been tremendously heart-warming the responses there have been from the school children who have sent literally 11 cents taped to a card, to those who have saved their tooth fairy money and their ice cream money to make it possible to purchase a new seat in the Filene Center. Three schools have given us $1,000 each; another one gave us $1,100, Woodbridge.

So the response clear across the spectrum has been very warming and very supportive and certainly a very great demand for the rebuilding of the Filene Center.

Senator WARNER. That is broad national support.

Mrs. HARFORD. Very broad and international support.

Senator WARNER. I think we can safely say with passage of this legislation and restructuring financially and otherwise that with the rebuilding of the center we can anticipate a far greater interest.

Mrs. HARFORD. Yes. I think the fire certainly has capsulized the tremendous affection. Mrs. Shouse gave Wolf Trap to all of us. The response to the fire has certainly shown us that people do feel indeed Wolf Trap belongs to them.

Your action this morning is a very great one, Mr. Chairman. We are deeply grateful.

Senator WARNER. I think I reflect the sentiments of a great many if not the totality of the U.S. Senate.

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, while you are talking about contributions, I think Mr. Fish may have something to add that would also be of interest on that subject.

Mr. FISH. We have received in the National Park Service too, Mr. Chairman, $11,000 in general contributions and just the other day we received word from the president of VEPCO that they were contributing the work that they had done to put the temporary facility together and also that they would not be charging us for the electricity used out there. And this amounts to about $35,000, a very generous contribution.

Senator WARNER. Virginia Electric Power.

Mr. FISH. Yes, sir.

Senator WARNER. In the little message they send each month.

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, you made a comment which triggered another thought and Carol Harford also referenced the fact that the decision that is represented in this bill is important to moving forward with the fund-raising effort. We struggled for a long time, it seemed, it was very rapid, in the normal course of events very rapid, but it seems like a long time now over how to make an appropriate arrangement with the foundation and it was the President's decision to decide that we would make a grant for $9 million and a loan for $9 million, which I think cut through this problem and made it possible for the foundation to go forward under the cooperative agreement that we anticipate, contract with people to do the work in an expeditious fashion. If we had somehow been in a posture of offering half but having to match in advance, it would have been impossible to contract with the construction work that has to be done.

I think that really was an important decision the President made and I don't think we should lose sight of that effort to support the foundation.

Senator WARNER. The spirit of the President and the spirit of Mrs. Shouse is a very important part. We close on that note. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 11 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN WALTER E. FAUNTROY BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN BEHALF OF

THE MARY McLEOD BETHUNE BILL, H.R. 6091

MAY 20, 1982

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I AM HERE IN STRONG AND VIGOROUS SUPPORT OF H.R. 6091, A BILL WHICH WOULD DESIGNATE "COUNCIL HOUSE," THE LAST OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE WAS AN OUTSTANDING AND RENOWNED EDUCATOR, NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADER, ADVISOR TO PRESIDENTS AND FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN. THIS BILL SEEKS TO PRESERVE THE RICH LEGACY PROVIDED THIS NATION AS A RESULT OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THIS GREAT AMERICAN WHO HAPPENED TO BE A WOMAN AND A BLACK.

IN ADDITION TO DESIGNATING "COUNCIL HOUSE" AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, THE BILL AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, WHO WOULD CONTINUE TO OWN AND OPERATE THE SITE.

THE BILL IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE THE PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE AND INTERPRETATION OF "COUNCIL HOUSE" AND IS AIMED AT ASSURING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY.

MRS. BETHUNE'S WORK AS A PUBLIC FIGURE DURING THE NEW DEAL ADMINISTRATION OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND AFTERWARDS IS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH HER WORK AT "COUNCIL HOUSE." NOT ONLY DID "COUNCIL HOUSE" SERVE AS HER LAST OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, BUT IT ALSO SERVED AS THE FIRST NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN. IT WAS FROM "COUNCIL HOUSE" BETWEEN 1936 AND 1949 THAT MRS. BETHUNE SIMULTANEOUSLY ADMINISTERED THE BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE IN FLORIDA, SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION AND ROSE TO PROMINENCE AS A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADER.

LOCATED AT 1318 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W., IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, "COUNCIL HOUSE" WAS ALSO A SIGNIFICANT CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH ADVANCED THE INTERESTS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WERE RECEIVED THERE.

"COUNCIL HOUSE" SERVES AS THE SITE OF THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND AS THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY. THE ARCHIVES HOUSES THE LARGEST MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION OF MATERIALS PERTAINING TOBLACK WOMEN AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE CORRESPONDENCE, PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORABILIA

RELATING TO MRS. BETHUNE. BOTH THE ARCHIVES AND THE MUSEUM ACTIVELY COLLECT ARTIFACTS, CLOTHING, ARTWORK AND OTHER MATERIALS WHICH DOCUMENT THE HISTORY OF BLACK WOMEN AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WAS PLEASED TO JOIN WITH YOU AS A SPONSOR OF THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION, AND I AM EVEN MORE PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY AS WE LAUNCH THE EFFORT TO BREATH LIFE AND BREATH INTO THIS TIMELY IDEA. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT AS WELL AS YOUR LEADERSHIP. THANK YOU.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

STATEMENT OF BETTY ANN KANE, AT LARGE MEMBER
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6091 and H.R. 6033
MAY 20, 1982

Mr. Chairman, I am Betty Ann Kane, an at-large member of the Council of the District of Columbia, a former at-large member of the D.C. Board of Education, and a 15-year resident of the Capitol Hill section of our city. I am by profession an educator who has spent most of her professional life in the field of museum education and administration, including heading the public programs department at the Folger Shakespeare Library and serving as development officer for the Museum of African Art. I am happy to be here to add my support to that of federal officials and local citizens for these two bills which will provide ongoing preservation and financial support to two very important District of Columbia landmarks-- Council House, the last home of our great leader Mary McLeod Bethune, and Congressional Cemetery.

Both of these sites are living examples of the unique nature of Washington, D.C.-- they are places where the national and the local intersect, and we are reminded once again of how rarified life can be in the nation's capital, and yet how much it becomes hometown to those who live here. Leaders from around the world were received by Mrs. Bethune at Council House, from which emanated strategies and programs advancing the interests of black women and the black community. Leaders of our country are laid to rest at

Congressional Cemetery side by side with local residents who have contributed much to our history and culture. Both of these sites are also prime examples of the dedication and unstinting efforts of private individuals and organizations to protect and restore not just a physical place but to make the people and events connected with them meaningful to future generations. For years members of Christ Church and the Capitol Hill community have struggled to keep up Congressional Cemetery. The National Council of Negro Women has worked for years to restore Council House and to assemble there the largest collection of manuscript materials relating to black women and their organizations in the country. Several years ago I had the opportunity, as a consultant to the National Endowment for the Humanities, to review and recommend support for the interpretive programs and displays planned for Council House. The federal support that H.R. 6091 and 6033 would provide for these sites is an appropriate and long overdue extension of these efforts, and will allow them to continue in cooperation with and under the control of the organizations that began them. As excellent examples of public-private partnership they deserve the full and expeditious support of the entire Congress.

STATEMENT OF ELAINE B. JENKINS

PRESIDENT, ONE AMERICA, INC.

RE: In Support of HR 6091

May 20, 1982

I have lived in the District of Columbia since 1946, and I am very conscious of the slow growth that has been made in providing the kind of visible historic tribute to Black Americans like Mary McLeod Bethune.

Fortunately, for me, I have lived long enough to know the unique significance of Mrs. Bethune's life to all Americans. This country strives to be recognized before all the world as a community leader in human rights and racial equality. To make the "Council House" a national site would be a most appropriate tribute to a Black American, for certainly no other person was more effective in advancing the cause of Black people.

The Congress of the United States would do itself proud to provide this historic linkage to the efforts and achievements of all its people.

Somehow and someway our devisiveness as a nation is getting more attention than our togetherness. Young people within our own country who visit this great capitol of the world would have a better understanding of our being ONE nation under God if the Mary McLeod Bethune "Council House" was among their tour and therefore a part of their education.

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Similarily, travelers of all ages coming to this city would have tangible evidence that America does indeed include historically successful Black leaders as part of our history.

FINALLY, my wide experience in working with numerous National organizations leads me to know and to offer testimony to the fact that the National Council of Negro Women has the national reputation for providing the kind of services that are needed to keep this historic site a beautiful memorial through the years.

The rationale is so clear and the time is so right to pass this bill.

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